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'INSUFFICIENT PROGRESS'

Consensus elusive for plastic treaty

Much left for countries to agree upon in final round of talks of the Plastics Treaty Negotiations

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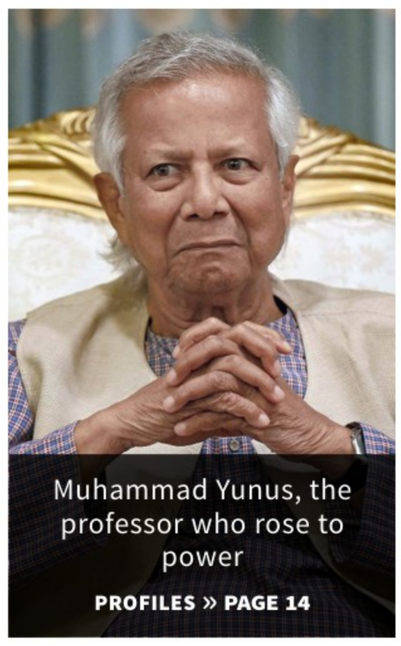

Muhammad Yunus, the professor who rose to power

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Will India cave to U.S. pressure on Russian oil imports?

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Impressive Keymer continues his winning run

SPORT » PAGE 16

IAF took down six Pakistani aircraft during Operation Sindoor: Air Force chief

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, at a lecture in Bengaluru on Saturday, spoke of the damage inflicted on Pakistan. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Air Force took down six Pakistan Air Force aircraft – five fighter jets and one large aircraft – during Operation Sindoor in May, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, said on Saturday.

"We have at least five fighters confirmed killed and one large aircraft which could be an electronics intelligence aircraft or an airborne early warning and control aircraft which was taken out from a distance of about 300 km, which is the largest-ever recorded surface-to-air kill that we can talk about," he said while delivering the keynote address of the 16th Air Chief Marshal L.M. Katre Memorial Lecture in Bengaluru.

This is the first time a senior officer of the Indian armed forces has officially confirmed bringing down Pakistani air assets during Operation Sindoor.

The Shahbaz Jacobabad air field, one of Pakistan's major airfields, was targeted by the IAF, he said.

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Why was military action stopped, Congress asks PM

NEW DELHI
The Congress on Saturday cited Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh to ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi why was India's military action against Pakistan "suddenly stopped". » PAGE 9

Booth-level agents contest EC claim of 'no objections'

The BLAs of Bihar Opposition parties say they have filed multiple complaints on plain paper which are counter-signed by officials; voters raising claims asked to file Form 6 instead, they say

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Even as the Election Commission (EC) maintains that no claims and objections have been filed by political parties over names included on, or excluded from, the draft electoral list in Bihar, political workers, including booth-level agents (BLAs), say they have filed many such complaints.

In fact, party workers say that when they flag the deletion of names of eligible voters through these complaints, the Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) tell them to ask voters to instead file Form 6, which is meant for first-time voter registrations.

According to data furnished by the EC on Saturday, zero claims have been filed by over 1.6 lakh BLAs appointed by political parties, while 7,252 claims have been filed by individual voters. However, the Form 6 applications are pouring in, with 43,123 having been filed so far.

According to the Rules of Electoral Registration, 1960, Form 7 has to be filed to challenge the addition of names or seek the deletion of names, Form 6 for first-time registration, and Form 8 for changes in the particulars of a voter on the draft rolls.

The BLAs from Opposition parties have said that their claims filed on plain paper were counter-signed by the EROs and Booth-level Officers (BLOs) as receipts, but the EC has not registered these as complaints.

A senior EC official in Delhi, who did not wish to be named, said no claims and objections can be accepted if they are not in the proper format.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

United protest: MPs from the INDIA bloc protest against the revision of Bihar electoral rolls outside Parliament on Friday. PTI

No names will be deleted without notice, EC tells SC

NEW DELHI
The Election Commission (EC) assured the Supreme Court on Saturday that deletion of voters' names from the Bihar draft electoral rolls would be done only after issuing prior notice indicating the grounds for the action. » PAGE 9

NEARBY

Law Dept. will hold inquiry into 'vote fraud': CM

MYSURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said here on Saturday that the Law Department would conduct an inquiry into the issue of alleged vote fraud during the Lok Sabha elections. He said whatever action was possible would be initiated based on the recommendations of the department. » PAGE 6

Fireworks expected at Monsoon Session

BENGALURU
The Monsoon Session of the State legislature is expected to witness heated exchanges between the Congress and the Opposition. In fact, there is no dearth of issues this time that have potential to trigger a heated debate. » PAGE 6

Police to conduct security audit of banks across State

BENGALURU
In the wake of a recent spurt in robberies targeting banks, ATM kiosks, money refilling vehicles, and jewellery shops, the State police chief has ordered all police unit heads to carry out an extensive security audit of these institutions.

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Modi to open metro's Yellow Line today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bengaluru on Sunday to inaugurate the much-delayed Yellow Line of Namma Metro between R.V. Road Metro Station and Bommasandra Metro Station, apart from laying the foundation stone for Metro Phase III in the city.

He will also flag off a Vande Bharat train between Bengaluru and Belagavi.

The Prime Minister will also flag off a Vande Bharat train between Bengaluru and Belagavi

The Prime Minister's visit comes two days after the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi led a 'Vote Adhikar Rally' in Bengaluru, alleging widespread "voter fraud" during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

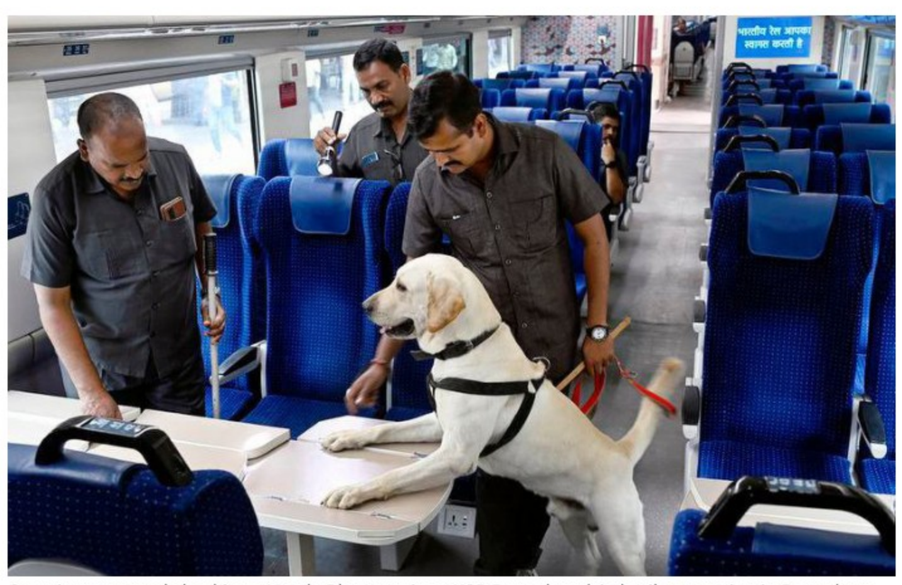
On the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to the city, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said the State's Law Department would hold an inquiry into the alleged "voter fraud".

While the Bharatiya Janata Party, both at the Centre and in the State, has been countering these allegations, the Prime Minister is yet to respond on the issue. He will address a public function on the International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore campus, Electronics City, on Sunday, where he will lay the foundation stone for Phase III.

Sources in the BJP said he may respond to the Congress' allegations during the speech. This visit comes at a time when the political scene in the State is hotting up and a nine-day Monsoon Session of the State legislature is set to commence from Monday. Mr. Modi's visit is expected to further add to the political heat.

Meanwhile, both the Congress and BJP have been trying to take credit over Namma Metro in the city.

RELATED REPORTS ON » PAGE 5



Security personnel checking a Vande Bharat train at KSR Bengaluru (city) railway station in Bengaluru on Saturday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the train on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

'Untouchability wall' torn down in T.N.

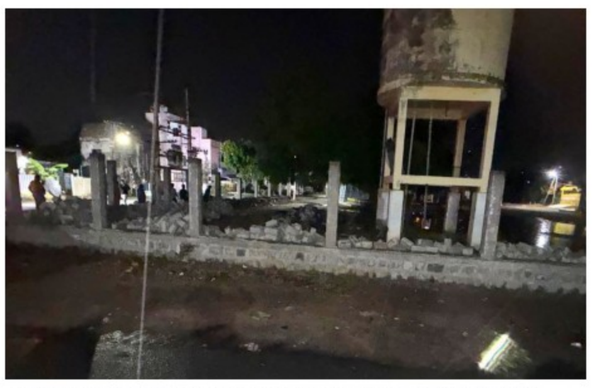
The wall, about 200 feet long and 10 feet high, was raised by caste Hindus in Karur district of Tamil Nadu three weeks ago; SC community says structure was meant to curtail their accessibility

C. Jaisankar
KARUR

People belonging to the Thottia Naicker community, an intermediate caste, on Saturday demolished an "untouchability wall" built by them allegedly to prevent access to people belonging to the Arunthathiyar Scheduled Caste community at Muthuladampatti in Karur district of Tamil Nadu.

The wall, measuring about 200 feet in length and 10 feet in height, was raised about three weeks ago on a piece of government *poramboke* land despite strong objections raised by the Scheduled Caste community which alleged that it was a "wall of untouchability".

Since the erection of the wall, it became a bone of contention between the caste Hindus and the SC community members.



The remains of the 'untouchability wall' at Muthuladampatti in Karur after its demolition on Saturday night. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Access denied'
While the latter said the wall was meant to deny them access to areas where the caste Hindus lived, the latter denied the charge and claimed they had built the wall to prevent anti-social activities by 'outsiders' under the influence of alcohol.

As the revenue and police personnel, led by Karur Superintendent of Police K. Josh Thangaiah, began to assemble at the controversial site on Saturday morning, the leaders of the intermediate caste group came forward to destroy the wall on their own.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Two soldiers shot dead on ninth day of Kulgam strike

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Two Army soldiers were killed at Akhal in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, the ninth day of the anti-terror operation in the area.

Exchange of fire
Officials said Lance Naik Pritpal Singh and Sepoy Harminder Singh of the Chinar Corps were killed in a heavy exchange of fire at night in the forest area, where a group of terrorists are believed to be trapped in a cordon of the security forces.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

SEP panel for quota in admissions for SC/STs, OBCs in pvt. varsities

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State Education Policy (SEP) Commission has recommended implementing reservation in admissions to private unaided colleges, private universities and government standalone institutions, to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward class (OBC) students, as per the reservation matrix in the State.

"Gross Enrolment Ratio into higher education is found to be low among these communities, apart from other vulnerable sections of students. To promote higher education among these underprivileged sections, we have recommended regulations for reservation for admission for SCs, STs and OBC students in private higher educational institutions and universities," said Prof. Sukhadeo Thorat, chairman, SEP Commission.

He recalled that during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance-2 (UPA-2) regime, constitutional amendments were brought in and presently Article 15 (5) of the Constitution provided for reservation in admissions in private unaided institutions.

"But the provisions say that the States should form regulations for the same. This has not been implemented anywhere yet. Let it start from Karnataka itself," Prof. Thorat said.

He also said that Karnataka had one of the highest levels of privatisation in education.

"Around 60% of the universities and colleges are private or unaided, and 72% of the students are studying in these institutions," he said, adding that the fees at these private institutions were high, acting as a barrier to many students.

"Therefore, we have recommended that students from lower income families who get admission in private and unaided colleges, should be provided financial support," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

RELATED REPORT » PAGE 4

A day at work: Palmyra climbers, carrying equipment, walking to work at Kulathoor village in Thoothukudi district.

Check list: A climber gets ready with his gear and tools at Vembar village in Thoothukudi district.

Rising to the occasion: A climber halfway into his journey to the top of a palmyra tree at Vembar.

Sweet sorrow

Palmyra climbers in Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu toil hard to collect *pathaneer*, the syrupy raw material for palm jaggery, but their numbers are dwindling day by day

Rajesh N.
rajesh.n@thehindu.co.in

The palmyra climbers of Thoothukudi district in Tamil Nadu eke out a living by harvesting *pathaneer*, the sap extracted from the flower clusters of the trees. The sap makes for a refreshing drink and can also be processed to make *panangkarkandu* (palm candy) and *karupatti* (palm jaggery).

Pathaneer or palm nectar is not fermented to make toddy as its sale is prohibited in Tamil Nadu. Palm jaggery and palm candy are favoured over white sugar as they are made without the use of chemicals and no preservatives are added. The product is also known to have minerals, vitamins, and antioxidants. The palmyra is the State tree of Tamil Nadu.

Palm products are highly sought after and the palmyra tree climbers work hard in arduous conditions to obtain the sap. However, they often do not see the fruit of their labour. They are poorly paid, even though climbing the trees can be a life-threatening task. Morever, the work is seasonal. Sap from palmyra trees is only available for five months in a year. During this time, a worker has to climb a tree three times a day to collect the precious sap, once at about 4 a.m., then at 10 a.m. and then in the evening before the sap dries. The sap is collected in mud pots, coated with lime to prevent it from becoming toddy, tied to the flower clusters.

The sap is boiled in huge pans for making *karupatti*. Once the boiled *pathaneer* attains the desirable pasty consistency, it is poured in coconut shells and allowed to cool for a while to get the tasty and sweet *karupatti*. The boiling of the sap is usually undertaken by the women in the families. The solid blocks are then ready to take to the traders as *karupatti*. Women add dried ginger, black pepper and *thippili* (long pepper) powder while making *panangkarkandu*, a finer version of palm jaggery. This sweetener, now with medicinal properties, enhances the value of the product. It can take several days for the families to produce the palm jaggery, from collecting the sap to processing it.

The *karupatti* is sold to traders for ₹200 to ₹250 per kilogram, but the market prices can go up to ₹380 per kg.

The number of climbers in Thoothukudi has come down drastically, as their work can be dangerous due to the lack of protective gear and the risk of falls. Many of the climbers do not want their children to take up the work, which is also not lucrative.

Ready to go: Maintaining his tools and gear can be matter of life or death for a palmyra tree climber, who is at risk of falls.

Classifieds

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LIFE MADE SIMPLE

THE HINDU

Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
ASSAMESE
AWADHI
BENGALI
BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
GUJARATI
HARYANI
HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
MARATHI
MARWARI
NEPALI
ORIYA
PARSI
PUNJABI
SAURASHTRA
SINDHI
TAMIL
TELUGU
TULU
URDU
ADVOCATE
BUSINESS
DEFENCE
DOCTOR
ENGINEER
FINANCE/ BANKING
GOVERNMENT/ QUASI-GOVERNMENT
IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MBA/ CA/ ICWA
NRI
COSMOPOLITAN
DIVORCEE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

DIVORCEE

NAIDU 42/151 Legally Divorced (No issues) Sr Position MNC Bangalore 30LPA, seeks qualified well employed groom from TN/ Karnataka 9283676016

DOCTOR

COIMBATORE BASED Doctor Girl, Pursuing M.S., Kettai / Viruchigam, 25/160, Gavara Naidu (Sub Sects No Bar) Upper Middle Class seeking around Coimbatore based PG Doctor Groom (or) Any Professionals. Contact: 99656 66888

GROOM WANTED SC(AD) 27yrs MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family background in Chennai Need doctors Ct:6385293227

GROOM WANTED Rediyar, 32yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family in Chennai, Need only doctors Ct: 9962791888

HINDU, 25Y, MBBS, MS Pursuing in Chennai Looking For Suitable Groom, CT: 9840301804/ 9677199925. CNB

FAIR BEAUTIFUL Girl 26/160, MBBS doctor/ PLAB2 / GMC UK registered Hindu/ Kerala Viswakarma, residence Delhi NCR pursuing for career abroad. Father retired defence officer, mother doctor. Alliance from professionally qualified Hindu boys, caste no bar, preferably doctor, settled in UK/ NRI. Mob 9667554920

HINDU MUDHALIYAR, 27/152cm, fair, slim pursuing MD Radiology, seeks Groom preferably doctors. Contact : 9445399103

HINDU Vannar (MBC) 28 yrs Girl MBBS MD Radiology UPSC [CHS] passed, Seeks DR's Groom. CNB BC/MBC preferable. Ct: 9003796291.

SC (AD) MDS (Pedo) 31yrs seeks suitable groom from medical graduates / professionals preferably Thanjavur, Trichy , Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts. Ph: 9840149288

Doctor Bride Seeks Elite Match 99 born doing MD OG 3rd Year, seeking PG or Super Speciality Qualified Groom. Contact: 9443331986

ENGLISH

VISWAKARMA GIRL, age 28, Good Looking, B Tech, Lead Engineer in Software MNC, reputed family in Kerala, seeks suitable Hindu Grooms Contact 98956 56341.

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(32/157 & 34/156) both M.Tech.,
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BUSINESS

Hindu girl only daughter Very rich 28 yrs Divorcee. Boy should be from Rich Hindu Upper Class Family or from elite services. Divorcee, widower (without child) or first marriage. Age below 33. Preferable from Chennai and around. Send all details to email ajaypj143@gmail.com, No Brokers.

COSMOPOLITAN

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THE HINDU
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NRI

MALAYALI EZHAVA Family Seeking Groom: We are a well–settled Malayali Ezhava family looking for a suitable alliance for our daughter, 26/160, currently pursuing higher studies in Europe. We are seeking a professionally qualified and well–settled NRI groom from the USA or Europe, preferably with similar cultural values. If interested, kindly share biodata with a recent photograph to: vkbdas@yahoo.com

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC, age 31, MD studied settled at USA, well settled family. Ct 8138900498.

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, Age 34, Divorced, MA completed, ready to relocate. Ct 8138901383.

CHRISTIAN, RC, age 29, B.Arch, Architect, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900523.

CHRISTIAN BE 35/164cm Handsome BC Girl Working CTS (SWE) in USA H1B Visa seeks good looking groom working with SWE/Professional in USA. CNB. CT: 81488 25673 Brokers Excuse

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✔ **MUSLIM GIRL 38 yrs, Engineer, look for qualified, employed, never married Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779**

CHRISTIAN GROOM wanted (Age 27 to 29) for a Tamil NRI–Bride.Send full details & photo to HP:+65–88142881.

CHRISTIAN NADAR, CSI, 1997 born/ 154cm, Asst. Professor, UGC, reputed Women's college seeks well educated, working Groom settled in Madurai from same community. Ct: 9894352347

CHIRSTIAN, PENTECOST, Age 29, BE, Private, USD 1Lakh. CT 8138900523

CHRISTIAN, PENTECOST, Age 30, M Pharm, MNC, 30 Lakhs. CT 8138900547

CSI VELLALA, M.Sc., M Phil., 89 July, Asst.Prof. Pondy, Seeks Groom FC/BC, below 39 yrs. Ct: 98946-77892

BORN AGAIN Christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

HINDU/SC AD, 29 years, 5'4" MCA Team lead @ an MNC, 13LPA, owns a new 2BHK Flat in Chennai, Simham Magam Bride(same caste) 9840365908

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, age 32, MS, IT professional, income 1 crore. Ct 7356483111.

HINDU, NADAR, age 26, B.Com, CMA, Business, Income 1 crore. Ct 8138900412.

RC NADAR, 27yrs, ME, 1lakh pm, Business Family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

TAMIL CHETTIYAR, 25yrs, BE, Elite business family in Coimbatore, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

HINDU, NADAR, Age 28, Divorced, MS, Doctor, 12 Lakhs. CT 8138900553

HINDU, PILLAI, Age 28, MBBS, Private, 5 Lakhs. CT 8138901294

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 30, BE, Banking, 12 Lakhs. CT 8138901189

DKV/SC MAY 1994/ 167cm Fair BE Parents Hindu / CSI, Seeks Groom Dr./Er. Govt Employee. 8056143638

TAMIL MUSLIM, 31yrs/158cm, MCA., AVP (IT) in financial Firm, earning 27LPA seeks never married, well-educated Tamil speaking groom from a good family, with strong career vision and comparable professional standing. Ct: 9080501299.

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar 26yrs B.Tech, MS(US) Working in US, Elite business family 9380791999/ 9841329471

HINDU SC 47Y 155cm Doctor Divorcee with No issues Seeks Profly Qlfd groom Caste No Bar. Ct: 9841256341

GIRL 30/5.4, Good Looking, Business 1L Pm, Seeks Well Settled Groom Aged 40/5.9, Cast No Bar. 73056 03908

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 27yrs, MBBS, working in Singapore, Well Educated Family. 9841329471/ 9380791999

SC (AD), 29yrs, MBBS, MS, Well Educated Family background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 33/ 162 BE Technical Lead–IT Chennai seeks well educated IT/ Engg Professional Metro/Abroad Mudaliar/Pillai 33–36yrs Wapp 6381123476

MUDALIAR 25/165 Fair Beautiful, MBBS, Dr,CMC, 700000 PA, Well Settled Family,CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

SOZHIYAVELLALAR PILLAI Age 30 BE (CSE) Working in Pvt Sector Chennai, Seeks Groom Preferable from Pillai/Mudaliar Age 30–33, BE Working in IT Field, Employed in Chennai / India / Abroad. Ct Gowdhaman 9342276143

MALAYALAM

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NRI

Hindu Telugu never married 40yrs / 162, MS MBA USA working Bride seeks 40-44yrs never married working Groom in USA, CNB 9866579596

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HINDU NADAR, 27 Fair, MBBS, MD Studied. Seeks Bride Chennai, Bangalore Any District Okay : 73 58 63 83 63

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Tamil Vanniyar Girl, Mumbai, Dob 19/09/93, MNC, Sal: 1 LPM, Rich, Caste No Bar, Contact: 8667248379.

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38 YEAR Old Naidu Engineering Post Graduate Girl Working In London needs a suitable Bridegroom from Naidu Or Any Caste. Rajan.7358787538

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SUITABLE BRIDE from Tamil/Malayalam BC or FC CNB any degree job status no bar for intercaste groom F–Kongu Vellalar, M–Nair 40/180 Sadhayam Clean Habits Well settled B.Tech MNC Projects Asst Manager–25LPACoimbatore. CT:99524 85996, 88076 59287

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DIVORCEE

SMART, SORTED 34, 178cm, thoughtful, Ivy Master's, US–based Strategy Consultant. Seeks compatible bride. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

DOCTOR

MS Completed Bridegroom, 97 born, BC, seeks MD OG /MD Radiology / Super Speciality Bride/ IAS or affluent Girl, cast no bar Contact: 9443331986

TAMIL

RC NADAR, 31yrs, BE, Central Govt Job, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Bride. 9380791999/ 9841329471

SPECIALITY DOCTOR Groom 33/173cm Tamil Muslim, never married working abroad looking for suitable bride. 8870279396 whatsapp.

TAMILMUSLIM 45/172 Goodlooking divorced govt doctor Chennai seeks fair unmarried bride ct : 8220194628

US CITIZEN, 25, 5ft 11inch, software eng, Seeking conservative Tamil Muslim hijabi girl based in US. Family–oriented religious. Contact: adh89104@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN CSI Nadar parents (Chennai settled) seek alliance for their born again son working in Bangalore. Fair, 26, 178cm, B.E., M.Tech, Data Engineer, seeks educated born again bride (BE/ME), age upto 24 yrs. Contact rgrajiv@yahoo.com

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VANNIYAR, 24, 170 cms, B.Arch., Businessman. Lives in Pondicherry. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

YADAV KONAR, 26, 178 cms, Pursuing MS General surgery. Lives in Madurai. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match similar community. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN IYER, 29, 168 cms, Masters, Working Professional. Lives in Mumbai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match from Mumbai based only. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 29, 160 cms, BE Software Professional. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded working professional match from Vegetarian family. Location. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 25, 155 cms, Pursuing Masters in Endodontics. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Preferably Doctors. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 22, 165 cms, Preparing for PG. Lives in Trichy. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Preferably Doctors. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL

BRIDE GROOM WANTED
TAMIL MUSLIM, AGE: 27 years, Completed MBBS & Pursuing Post Graduates (OG) 2nd year in Govt. College. (Living in Chennai)
Bride Looking For Tamil Muslim Groom, Age: 27 - 30 years, Preferably Should have Completed MBBS & Pursuing Post Graduation Degree / Completed.
"From an Affluent Family" (within Tamilnadu Preferred)
98410 91997

CNB Groom required for SC/Divorsee/ Bangalore/ Tamil/ 28yrs/ 168 cm /BE/ SWE Contact: 9491130211

TELUGU

KAMMA NAIDU 32/174 well settled family. seeks groom Chennai Kamma/ Balija, business/ salaried good family background. 9444885060/ 9003190983

26/163 cm / MBBS PG Girl Seeks IAS, Dr. Group1, (Caste No Bar: Kamma, Kapu, Reddy) 100 cr Hyderabad Boy Phone: 7660803720, 6305502298.

HINDU Gavara Naidu Bride 28, MNC 20 LPA, Seeks Tamil speaking Groom working at B'lore / Hyd. 99946 50674.

URDU

URDU SMU M.Tech Employed Very Fair 33/165 Seeks Bridegroom with Clean Habits. Ct: 9842023966.

SUNNI URDU family Chennai seeks religious, professional groom (under 29) settled in Saudi/Germany, for 25–yr fair, religious IT bride working in Saudi. WhatsApp: +966569772471

URDU SUNNI Muslim (UAE based South Indian) parents invite proposals from well–settled decent groom working in UAE for our daughter age (27) years, fair, (B.Tech., MBA) professional, working in (UAE) . Call or WhatsApp 00971505368592

DOCTOR

TALL HANDSOME 34yrs Singaporean (Kallar) working as a doctor in London seeks bride from similar profession between 25-30 yrs and height-168 cm and above. CNB. Phone: 94443 42747

HINDU KERALA Mudaliyar, 28yrs, BHMS, Homeopathy Doctor seeks Bride AYUSH Doctor. Ct: 9629913309

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

CHENNAI PRACTICING Lawyer Muslim Malayalee 28/173 seeks alliance from educated bride. Contact 9444056021

LOOKING MALAYALI Pentecostal Girl – (No Jewel) for Tamil Christian Groom (31yr/ 165ht/ BE/ 16LPA), well settled in Madurai. Ct–8310765588.

SEEKING US based girl for 30 yr old Software Engineer boy of Kerala origin, raised in an interreligious (Christian, Hindu) family and settled in US. Wts app +91 701 208 6580.

NRI

NAIDU, 30 Pooratathi, BTech, MS, Research Engineer, Sweden Citizen, Upper Middle Class CNB bride willing to relocate call father 9566682220

PUNJABI

Looking SM for Dec 1983 born Punjabi Handsome Never-Married Boy. MSc PGD working in a MNC at Sr Post 70 LPA. Contact: 9820727061

TAMIL

Christian BC, 1995, 171cm B.Tech (NIT)M.S.(USA)works in USA, H1B Visa, Seeks Educated Girl Working/ willing to settle in USA.Ct: 9443714023

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride.9003983230

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, Age 28, ME, Private, 50 Lakhs. CT 8138009235

CHRISTIAN, RC, Age 28, B Arch, Private, 15 Lakhs. CT 8138009140

CHRISTIAN, 28, Nadar, IT Engineer Chennai (12 LPA), from good family, seeks spiritual girl with ministry interest. ethansamuel629@gmail.com

CHENNAI–BASED HINDU Divorced Groom (US Citizenship) 46 yrs, Height 180cm, MS Engg., Working (60LPA). Seeks Divorced/Widowed Bride (1 Kid Ok). Contact: 8220765305

SEEKING BRIDE from a good family background from Mudaliar / Pillai, for my son born in 1994. Tall, Fair & Handsome with clean habits Presently working in the US. 9841457050

TAMIL

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN 47 yrs,well settled in US with 2 child. Re–marriage seeks qualified, Suitable Bride willing to settle in US. 7806889911

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT–9500188067

THULUVA VELLALA Agamudaya Mudaliyar, 31, Rishabam, Kiruthikai II Patham, B.E., Software Company Job, Good Salary Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 96119 66466, 98860 70800

HINDU, MUDALIYAR, age 28, MBBS, MD, looking for a Doctor bride. Ct 8138900312.

HINDU, CASTE NO BAR, age 29, B.E, IT professional, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900537

HINDU, VANNIYAR, Age 26, B.E, Banking professional, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900316.

SAIVA PILLAI 39, Divorcee.BE/MBA, MNC, Bangalore, Seeks First Marriage Bride in Thirunelveli/ Thanjavur Saiva Pillai/ Karkathar Society only.Ct: 8072215374/ 9344701672

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 27yrs, B.Tech, Business Family background, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9962791888

TAMIL HINDU graduate bride from TN, good family background, willing to relocate – for UK graduate (British Indian, 34, 183cm, MNC) from good family background. Pls send all details to punaggai@outlook.com

1990, B.TECH MBA, Chennai. Works from home in US IT firm. Seeks suitable bride. GEN/OBC. Ph: 9600097474

HINDU, 38/183CM, fair, handsome. PG Engg. Consultant. Divorced (no kids). Seeks well–educated, good–looking girl, unmarried/divorcee (no kids) from good Tamil family (Mudaliar, Pillai, Chettiar, Naidu preferred). Ct: 9566221110

HINDU, MUDALIAR, Age 28, MBBS, Doctor, 10 Lakhs. CT 8138901227

RICH MUDALIYAR, 35yrs, M.sc, Well Educated Family background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride. 6385293227

HINDU, CASTE NO BAR, Age 25, Self employed, 15 Lakhs. CT 8138901097

HINDU, NADAR, Age 28, MS, Doctor, 5 Lakhs. CT 8138900412

HINDU CHETTIAR 31 / 178cm M. S(ECE), Puratathi, Handsome, settled in Australia, Seeks Bride from Equal or Sub Caste. Contact : 8122980640

THEVAR AGAMUDAYAR, 1995 born 178 cms, Maham, B.E, MBA., Infosys - 18L/PA @ Chennai seeks Qualified Bride from Mukkulatthor Community. WhatsApp: 9489378378

GOUNDER CHENNAI–BASED Canadian Citizen Sr Software Engg BE MS–USA 89 born height 167cm Fair Slim Affluent Caste No bar Ct: 9363635101

VANNIAKULAKSHTRIAR GROOM 43yrs, Divorced shortlived no issue. B.E, M.B.A(UK). Working in IT Company Chennai. 15laks/PA Contact: 9944928521, 9487935521.

HINDU MUDALIYAR 48, Handsome, VVIP, Remarriage, Chennai, seeks good looking Decent, VIP bride. 7401489892

ADI DRAVIDA Hindu Tamil 28/168cm B.Tech, MS USA planning PhD, Doctor parents. settled in Chennai seeks bride from good family. Ph: 89037 16157.

VANNIYAKULA Kshatriya 1987 MS MBA employed in UK Glasgow wants bride employed in UK or willing to move to UK.Ct:9342994247, 9442910057

TAMIL

SC / Intercaste, Hindu, 30 yrs B.Com MBA, Manager (HDFC Bank) Chennai, seeks bride.9444123939 /9176265079

MD DOCTOR 41. Chennai,Own Clinic, Reddiyar, Mutual divorcee.Seeks working Bride any OC,BC caste. 8124570336

SC HINDU Mithunam Thiruvathirai 32 / 180 BE, MBA Smart IT Chennai seeks Homely, Educated, Mingle with Join & Well settled Family. Caste No Bar. 9789920881 / 8778546961

CNB, 28YRS, MBBS, pursuing MD, Very Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks suitable Bride Ct: 6385293227

✔ **A 45–**YEAR–OLD Tamil Hindu divorcee groom, well–settled, seeks a suitable Tamil Hindu divorcee bride, aged 38–43. Caste no bar. Prefer an educated, understanding partner. Contact: 9789884657 / 9944202325

44, MBA, Ex Cyber Security IT, Seeks Good Character Girl, Hindu Pattinava Chettiar 1st Mrg, CNB 9742033888

SMART, MATURE 26, 185cm, scion of affluent Tamil/Telugu business family. Chennai roots. US citizen (LA) , yet can relocate globally. Seeks compatible bride. Call/WA 9345634365.

B.FUL, EDUCATED Girls 30 to 35yrs from Decent Family invited for our sons 38&40yrs Working in Hyd & Blore Cast no bar 8838090744/ 9444160394

AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ Seeks Any Vegetarian Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

MUDALIAR 29/185 Handsome, MBBS MD, Apollo, 2400000 PA, Well Settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

CASTE NO Bar, 51yrs, BE, 1st life, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 9962791888

MUDALIAR 29, BE,MBA 178cm 22L PA Smartlook, well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB, 8778514465/ 7200866346

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 28, Diploma, Private, 14 Lakhs. CT 8138900575

HINDU, PILLAI, Age 38, Divorced, BE, Private, 40 Lakhs. CT 8137003550

TRICHY–BASED HINDU Groom, 40 yrs, 180 cm, MBA, Working (30LPA), Never Married. Open to Divorced/Widowed Bride (No Kids). Caste No Bar. Contact: 8220765305

BE BRAHMIN 1973 differently abled Chennai seeks likeminded bride. Living together considered. 9884473503

TAMIL BRAHMIN Iyer, handsome boy (46 yrs/ 170 cms / Sadhayam) MCA, employed in Chennai, belongs to a well settled family seeks a warm hearted / Educated / Good looking girl from a good family background. Employment is optional. Ct: 9500995343.

Smart/ Sep 95/180 cm/ Mtech Professional, affluent Pillai Family seeks Educated Bride preferably from Ahmedabad/ Mumbai/ Delhi / Email: cbechn1995@gmail.com

Mudaliar 49yr Divorce-No Issue BBA Chennai Industrialist Rich seek Homemaker for same/Subcaste 9841186098

Naidu Affluent Chennai 29/165 M.E MNC and Own Business, Rental Income CNB 9841097110.

WELL SETTLED 35 Year Hindu Nadar Post Graduate Doctor on Profession in Australia Needs a Suitable Girl. Interested to Settle at Australia. Caste No Bar. Rajan: 7358787538

Seeking Vegetarian Bride for 32 Years Fair Boy, Working in MNC, Chennai, Contact: 8072867231

TAMIL

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

MUSLIM BOY 29 BE(ECE)MS(Bits Pilani) Proj Lead MNC Chennai 32L P/A well todo fmly chennai 9445556810

TELUGU

RICH REDIYAR, 34yrs, M.sc (UK), Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:6385293227

AGE 28, Male, B.E, Software Engineer, Chennai is seeking BRIDE 24–27yrs, educated & employed Balija/ Gavara Naidu #9094937080

RICH NAIDU, 31yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 6385293227

CHENNAI TELUGU, 30 years 168 cm B.Tech, MBA, Business Entrepreneur settled family, looking for suitable bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9003239626

BALIJA NAIDU 32yrs Rohini Rishabam Fair Business (Surgical Manufacturer & Distributors) Seeks Any Telugu Caste Bride. 9790963402.

24 , TELUGU CHETTIYAR, 16 VEEDU MUMMUDIYAR, BE [Civil], 29 Years, Self Employed seeks bride [23+1]. Contact: 6379726238.

Hindu Kamma Naidu 42/170cms MBA Business. Rs.3LPM, Chennai Seeks Suitable Bride. CNB. Ct: 89460 61119.

URDU

MUSLIM, TAMIL speaking, Age 42/ B.Sc. seeking suitable bride +2/ any Deg. Ct: 9360285747 / 9486282337

TN MUSLIM Syed Urdu 28/166 cm Handsome Doctor MD.DM.AIIMS, Delhi seeks beautiful urdu,syed/sheik MD/M.S. religious bride TN/Pondy Cell 9952828485

SUNNI MUSLIM Groom wheatish, Slim 27, 5.8, B.Tech, Own Business 1.5L+pm Seeks Bride Slim Fair from Well Educated Religious Fam. 8807807383

MUSLIM BOY 29 BE(ECE)MS(Bits Pilani) Proj Lead MNC Chennai 32L P/A well todo fmly chennai 9445556810

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

32Y Son, Tamil, SC (Caste No Bar), ME, MBA 17 LPA, 29Y Daughter, B.Tech, MBA 13LPA work in IT & 26Y daughter Bsc seek suitable Bride & Grooms. 9441677205.

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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Cooling off: A climber washes his feet after a trek up a tree.

End product: A woman carrying a fresh batch of palm jaggery that she has made from the palmyra sap.

Precious stock: A trader arranges the palm jaggery at a shop in village. A kilo can fetch up to ₹400 and the product is preferred by many over white sugar for health reasons.

Syrup thickens: A woman boiling harvested sap to prepare palm jaggery from it at a makeshift hut in Vembar.

Uncertain future: Palmyra climbers and their spouses say that their children may not take up their work because of the risks involved.

Police to conduct security audit of banks, jewellery stores across State

Aim is to reassure the public, deter criminal activities through increased police visibility and rapid response readiness

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the wake of a recent spurt in robberies targeting banks, ATM kiosks, money refilling vehicles, and jewellery shops, the State police chief has ordered all police unit heads to carry out an extensive security audit of these institutions, plug gaps, enhance security measures and intensify patrolling.

In a circular issued last week, M.A. Saleem, Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP), Karnataka State Police, has directed the police to conduct comprehensive security audits of banks, ATMs, and jewellery shops in their respective areas to identify vulnerable spots and implement preventive measures.

The move aims to reassure the public and deter criminal activities through increased police visibility and rapid response readiness, the circular said.

The police officers should ensure proper lights, CCTV cameras and alarm systems, and security guards in the ATMs, banks, and jewellery shops in their jurisdiction, Mr. Saleem said.

If the police officials found any lapses, the concerned officials should be informed about the same to get it fixed, the circular said.

However, the circular has not specified what action will be taken against those establishments that fail to comply.

The circular also said policemen in plain clothes must be deployed at strategic locations with heavy commercial activities and footfall to monitor any suspicious activity apart from keeping an eye on the parked vehicles on the road in and around banks and commercial areas, and conduct regular checks.

Regular monitoring

All key commercial establishments should be regularly monitored.

The police should also keep an eye on the movement of vehicles on highways, especially during nighttime, and also monitor the movements of habitual offenders on a regular basis, the circular said.

Mr. Saleem also directed the personnel to conduct awareness drives on safety and security measures to be taken with bank officials, jewellers and owners of commercial establishments, lorry and cab drivers.

A timeline of robberies

January 16, 2025
Two motorcycle-borne assailants opened fire on employees of Cash Management Services who were refilling an ATM at Shivaji Chowk in Bidar. One killed and one injured. Robbers fled with ₹83 lakh in cash

January 17, 2025
A gang of four robbers, wearing masks and armed with weapons, entered a cooperative society bank at Kotekar near Mangaluru and made off with valuables worth about ₹4 crore

May 23, 2025
A gang of 15 broke into Canara Bank branch in Managuli village, Vijayapura district and looted ₹53.26 crore worth of gold by cutting open a window grill and bypassing CCTV cameras and power lines

July 27, 2025
A gang of masked men carrying a gun, looted 150 grams of gold ornaments from a jewellery shop in Madanayakanahalli after threatening the shop owner and staff

'Property tax notices issued only to those who have declared less area than what is in sale deed'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Saturday clarified that the property tax notices have only been issued to such flat owners who have declared less area in property tax system than what is in their sale deed.

"Every citizen should pay property tax for the flat area which is written in his sale deed and what he paid for when s/he purchased the flat. Every flat purchaser knows how many square feet s/he paid for, and they precisely need to pay the property tax for those many square feet. What some citizens have been doing is that they have declared less area in the property tax system than what is in their sale deed," said Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner, Revenue, BBMP.

> Every citizen should pay property tax for the flat area which is written in the sale deed and what was paid for when they purchased the flat
> **MUNISH MOUDGIL,** Special Commissioner (Revenue), BBMP

He further said, "Now in e-khata, as sale deeds are obtained from Kaveri, the area therein has been compared with the area for which tax was paid. This was done electronically as Kaveri gives the area of the flat as mentioned in the sale deed."

BBMP has provided citizens with an option to reply, file objections, or appeal online at https://bbmpenyaya.karnataka.gov.in. A decision will then be made by the authorities based on the records that exist.

"This is a very transparent and online system as compared to the previous manual system under which local Revenue Inspector/Tax Inspector would issue notices and appeal or objection were filed only manually to local Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO). That put citizens totally in control of the local staff. Further, virtually no action could be taken in case of flats as it was next to impossible to measure flat area manually," Mr. Moudgil said.

He reiterated that car parking is not added to the taxable area of the flat and should be paid separately by everyone who declares car parking.

Woman dies, husband injured as speeding lorry rams bike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 23-year-old newly married woman was killed, and her husband was injured near Laggere Bridge on Friday when a speeding lorry rammed the motorcycle they were travelling on. The woman, who was riding pillion, was run over by the truck after she fell off the motorcycle and was killed on the spot.

The deceased has been identified as Geeta, a resident of Malleswaram. Her husband, identified as Sunil, a private firm employee, is being treated for his injuries.

The couple got married three months ago. They were on their way to a relative's house to celebrate the Varamahalakshmi festival, their first since marriage.

The accident was caught on the CCTV camera installed nearby, the police said.

The lorry driver abandoned the vehicle and fled the scene. The Rajajinagar traffic police have seized the lorry and are on the lookout for the driver. He has been booked for causing death due to negligence and rash and negligent driving.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, AUG. 10	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:43
RISE 19:40	SET 06:49
MONDAY, AUG. 11	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:42
RISE 20:20	SET 07:44
TUESDAY, AUG. 12	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:42
RISE 21:01	SET 08:38

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	29	21
Bengaluru	29	22

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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₹2,000 for a *Coolie* ticket: Bengalureans shocked at exorbitant rates for Rajinikanth's film

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

The ₹200 price cap on movie tickets continues to be a dream for film lovers of Bengaluru. In July, the State government had issued a draft notification on capping cinema ticket prices. However, the ticket rates for the upcoming Rajinikanth biggie, *Coolie,* has left people surprised and shocked in equal measure.

The movie will hit the screens worldwide on August 14, 2025.

On Saturday, advance bookings opened for the upcoming movie in the State, with the Lokesh Kanagaraj-directorial setting a box office record within minutes. In 30 minutes, around 10,000 tickets were sold with 66 shows, making *Coolie* the fastest film ever to touch the figure at the Bengaluru box office.

Rajinikanth in *Coolie*. SUN TV/YOUTUBE

What caught people's attention was the whopping price range for the early-morning shows (between 6.00 a.m. and 7.00 a.m.) at single screens. The maximum amount was ₹2,000 at the Swagath Shankar Nag on M.G. Road for Gold Recliner seats, with the other seats being sold at ₹1,500 (Gold) and ₹1,000 (Silver and Lounge).

At Lakshmi Cinema in Taverekere, Diamond class seats were priced at ₹1,000 per ticket, while Gold Class ones were priced at ₹800. Across Bengaluru, the average price for all the early-morning and morning shows was ₹400-500. Few more single screens are likely to add early-morning shows at ₹1,000 per ticket in the coming days.

On social media, theatres have drawn criticism for the exorbitant ticket rates. Tamil Nadu, Rajinikanth's fortress, is charging not more than ₹200 per ticket, including one of the biggest multiplexes in India, Mayajaal, in Chennai

On social media, theatres drew criticism for the exorbitant ticket rates. Tamil Nadu, Rajinikanth's fortress, is charging not more than ₹200 per ticket, including one of the biggest multiplexes in India, Mayajaal, in Chennai.

Bengaluru has remained infamous for high-priced movie tickets.

Price cap on tickets

In the Budget for 2025-26, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced that the cost of a ticket of any show in all theatres of the State, including multiplexes, would be capped at ₹200.

On July 14, the government had given a notice of 15 days to those likely to be affected by the rule. However, there has been no new announcement on the matter from the government.

Annual investiture ceremony

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kristu Jayanti (deemed to be university) held its annual investiture ceremony on Friday, formally inducting student leaders into roles across the student council, co-curricular clubs, and various campus associations.

Commandant Sandrew W. Nongkynrih of the CISF, Airport Security Group, Bengaluru, was the chief guest. "Your background does not define your future; your effort and your value do," he said in his keynote address

Fr. Augustine George, Vice-Chancellor in-charge, delivered the presidential address, urging the newly inducted leaders to embrace discomfort in leadership.

APPOINTMENT

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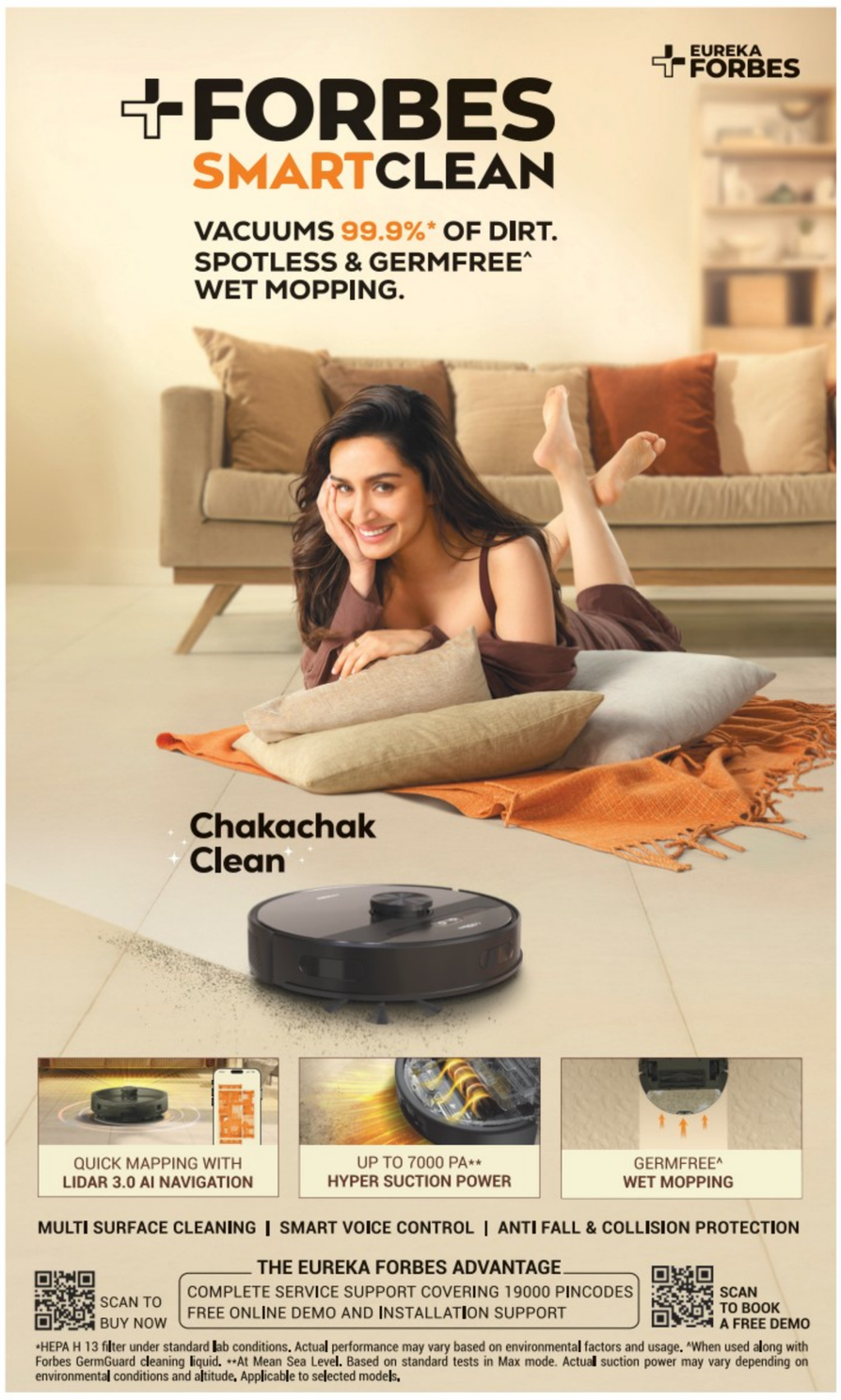


SPACE MARKETING INITIATIVE

WHY PROTECTING YOUR CHILD FROM CERTAIN PREVENTABLE CANCERS SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY

As a parent, you plan various aspects of your child's future. But it is easy to overlook a key investment during their teen years: their health. This is an important time in their life when the foundations for future well-being can be laid which can make a huge difference.

You were diligent with the childhood immunization shots, and that protection continues. But did you know that there is prevention available including vaccination for certain types of cancers like cervical cancer, anal cancer? These are caused by HPV or the human papilloma virus – a commonly transmitted virus that often functions silently and may not show any symptoms. While most HPV infections clear on their own, but if it persists, it can lead to certain types of cancers and other complications.

Like any good investment, in health as well, acting early can yield better results. Taking preventive steps for your child during adolescence with HPV vaccination, between 9 and 14 years old, can yield better protection against certain HPV related cancers and diseases compared to when vaccinated later. At this age, their bodies build a more lasting immunity, providing strong protection before they are at risk of certain HPV related cancers and diseases.

And this is not just for girls. HPV poses a risk of various cancers in both men and women. Protecting both boys and girls helps reduce some of these HPV related risks.

We often see investment in health as 'optional' step because it's not an immediate risk, but a small investment today is nothing compared to the cost of a future illness. Prevention and protection are one of the important tools we have today against certain HPV related cancers.

If you have questions, you are not alone. The best first step is a simple chat with your child's paediatrician, who can answer your questions and guide you. Don't wait, the earlier this protection begins, the better it may be. It is a simple step that can help protect your child against risk of certain HPV related cancers and diseases.

Issued in public interest by MSD Pharmaceuticals for awareness purposes.

IMAGE FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

Help your child SHINE brighter

- **S – Start early:** Invest in protecting your child from the risk of certain HPV related cancers & diseases.
- **H – Health is prevention:** Early protection starting from 9 years, means reducing the risk of cervical and certain other HPV-related cancers later in life.
- **I – Include boys too:** HPV vaccination is not just for girls. Boys need protection too.
- **N – No delay,** act early starting 9 years for protection against HPV.
- **E – Educate yourself:** Talk to your doctor, learn the facts about HPV prevention including vaccination.

Disclaimer: *This feature is not intended to be a substitute for medical advice. Consult your medical practitioner before acting upon the information.*

References:
1. Questions and Answers about Human Papillomavirus (HPV). WHO (regional office for Europe) 2020, accessed on 2nd July 2025
2. HPV FAQ & Questions | Help You Understand Diagnosis & Treatment. https://www.hpv.org.nz/ Accessed on 2nd July 2025

IN-GSL-01402 25-Jul 2025 24-Jul 2027

Change in train schedules today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival in Bengaluru on Sunday, the South Western Railway on Saturday announced changes in the schedule of several trains.

Cancellation
Train Nos. 66551 KSR Bengaluru-Ashokapuram, 66552 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru, 66567 KSR Bengaluru-Tumakuru, 66572 Tumakuru-KSR Bengaluru, 06581 KSR Bengaluru-Channapatna, and 06582 Channapatna-KSR Bengaluru will remain fully cancelled.

Partial cancellation
Train No. 66512 Marikuppam-KSR Bengaluru will be partially cancelled between Bengaluru Cant-KSR Bengaluru and will be short-terminated at Bengaluru Cant. Train No. 66511 KSR Bengaluru-Marikuppam will originate from Bengaluru Cant instead of KSR Bengaluru. Train No. 66529 Kuppam-KSR Bengaluru will be short-terminated at Bengaluru Cant instead of KSR Bengaluru, while Train No. 66530 KSR Bengaluru-Kuppam will originate from Bengaluru Cant. Train No. 16215 Mysuru-KSR Bengaluru Chamundi Express will be short-terminated at Kengeri, and Train No. 20660 KSR Bengaluru-Mysuru Rajya Rani Express will originate from Kengeri.

Train Nos. 66541 Whitefield-KSR Bengaluru, 66581 KSR Bengaluru-Bangarapet will originate from Bengaluru Cant, Train No. 66524 Hindupur-KSR Bengaluru will short terminate at Yelahanka instead of KSR Bengaluru, and 16520 KSR Bengaluru-Jolarpettai will originate from Bengaluru Cant instead of KSR Bengaluru, and Train No. 56224 Arsikere-KSR Bengaluru will be short terminated at Chikbanavar instead KSR Bengaluru.

For the journey commencing on Saturday, Train No. 07339 SSS Hubballi-KSR Bengaluru will be short-terminated at Yesvantpur.

Rescheduling
For the journey commencing on August 9, Train Nos. The 16536 Pandharpur-Mysuru Golgumbaz Express and 17308 Bagalkot-Mysuru Basava Express will be rescheduled to start 180 minutes later from Pandharpur and Bagalkot, respectively. For the journey commencing on August 10, Train No. 12090 Shivamogga Town-KSR Bengaluru, Train No. 66554 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru, and Train No. 20607 Dr. MGR Chennai Central-Mysuru Vande Bharat Express will be rescheduled to start late by 90, 150, and 90 minutes respectively from Shivamogga Town, Ashokapuram and Dr. MGR Chennai Central.

Regulation of trains
Train No. 20623 Ashokapuram-KSR Bengaluru Malgudi Express will be regulated en route by 45 minutes, and Train No. 12007 Dr. MGR Chennai Central-Mysuru Shatabdi Express will be regulated en route by 30 minutes.

Train No. 17326 Mysuru-Belagavi Vishwamanav Express will be diverted to run via Krishnarajanagar, Hassan and Arsikere, skipping all scheduled stoppages from Pandavapura to Tiptur.

SEP Commission opposes foreign varsities setting up campuses in State

It will not be accessible for the poor and it is very expensive. Therefore, we have favoured institutional collaboration with foreign universities for awarding degrees, says commission chairman Sukhadeo Thorat

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

State Education Policy (SEP) Commission chairman Sukhadeo Thorat told *The Hindu* that the commission in its report submitted to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday, had opposed allowing foreign universities directly setting up their campuses in Karnataka.

"We are not in favour of foreign universities opening their campuses in Karnataka. It will not be accessible for the poor and it is very expensive. Therefore, we have favoured institutional collaboration with foreign universities for awarding degrees," Prof. Thorat said.

The University of Liverpool, United Kingdom, is expected to open its campus in Bengaluru in September 2026. Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil earlier this year said that University of East London, York University, and University of Wolverhampton have expressed keen interest in Karnataka's KWIN City initiative.

Sukhdeo Thorat, chairman of the State Education Policy Commission.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Several other foreign universities from Australia, United States of America, and Italy are also said to be keen to establish their campuses in Karnataka.

Instead, the SEP Commission has recommended accessible online education for all students, increasing the job oriented course in all streams of education, and introducing new courses on emerging technologies like quantum computing, Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, nano science in technical education.

Low GER in Karnataka
Prof. Thorat expressed concern over low gross enrolment ratio (GER) for higher education. "GER in Karnataka for higher education is about 30% to 35%, ranking ninth among States in GER, while it ranks second in per capita income. So we need to look at other reasons for low GER," he said.

"Regional disparity is one among the major reasons for this lower GER. Kalyana Karnataka has a GER in the range of 20-25%, while GER in coastal and inland Karnataka is around 37%. There are seven or eight districts with GER less than 20%. We have suggested measures to improve GER in Kalyana Karnataka," Prof. Thorat said.

The commission has found low GER in disadvantaged communities. "Poor coverage of post-matric scholarship, financial assistance is one of the reasons for low GER in these communities. In the case of SCs and STs, the income limit is very low compared to others. Even with ₹2.5 lakh of annual income, so many students are deprived of scholarships. Meanwhile, income limit for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) students is pegged at ₹8 lakh and for OBCs at ₹6 lakh per annum. Therefore, we have suggested income limit exemption up to ₹10 lakh for SC and ST students," he said.

Prof. Thorat further said that they have recommended that the government should provide free education for rural girls, along with other financial incentives to reduce their domestic work, not to go for early marriages etc.

"We have also recommended some incentives to married women as well," he said.

From Page One

SEP panel for quota in admissions for SC/STs, OBCs in pvt. varsities

The SEP Commission has also recommended that the State enact an anti-discrimination law in the form of Rohith Vemula Act, as has been the demand by several Dalit and progressive groups across the country, to deal with issues of diversity and discrimination in higher educational Institutions.

"This is an important issue. We have suggested a separate law that deals with diversity and discrimination issues, with regards to caste, religion, gender or any other form of discrimination," Prof. Throat said.

Dance event

BENGALURU: Bansi Bilash School of Performing Arts will present Purvasha: Echoes of the Sacred East, an Odissi performance on Sunday at 5.30 p.m. at the Vivek Auditorium, Yuva Patha, in Jayanagar.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Notice of Inviting E-Tender
E-Tender Notice. SNT-JP-11-2025-26 Dated- 07.08.2025 DRM(S&T)/North Western Railway/Jaipur, for and on behalf of the President of India invite E-Tenders from registered tenderer/bidders for the following work. **1. Name of work with its location** : Telecom work in connection with Strengthening of Railnet at Railway Colonies, ORH/sub-ordinate rest House, Hospital/Dispensaries, RPF Barrack etc. over Jaipur division. **2. Tender Value** : Rs. 9,87,97,941.34/- **3. Bid security** : Rs. 6,44,000.00/- **4. Tender submission & closing Date & Time on website : 29.08.2025** Up to **15.00** hrs. **5. Website particulars & Notice board location** : www.ireps.gov.in, DRM office/NWR/ Jaipur
994-DR/25
Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/135/2025 Dated: 06-08-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Execution of site clearance by carrying out jungle cleaning, Earth work, dismantling of Structures, laisoning with Gok authorities for collection/preparation of RTC documents and mutation copies, taking possession of land, fixing of boundary pillars and other miscellaneous works between Jumlapur (75400) to Shorapur (187100). **(Tender Ref. No.: GDG-WD-62-R)**	Rs. 9,84,43,135/-

Date of closing of Tender is : **Upto 15:00 hrs on 28-08-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/372/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/134/2025 Dated: 04-08-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of 2 lane ROB along with subway (1x4.0 x 2.50m RCC Box) in lieu of LC No.33 at Km 59/800-900 with 1x30m composite girder (Railway Portion) +04x18.71m PSC Girder towards PB NH side and 2x18.71 PSC girder towards Panditahanahali side and retaining wall on both sides of ROB merging lengths between Kyathasandra and Hirehalli stations including electrical works. (Composite work). **(Tender Ref. No.: ROB-LC33-KIAT-HHL)**	Rs. 17,38,13,349/-

Date of closing of Tender is : **Upto 15:00 hrs on 28-08-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/367/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 17/2025 Date : 05-08-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
1	42251163	High voltage HRC Fuse (with holder) DIN type	2618 Nos	20.08.2025
2	47245007A	supply of 21.6/30.24 MVA, 110 KV/27 KV, 50HZ, Single Phase, Traction Power Transformer	2 Nos.	21.08.2025
3	33251018	Sealed Glass unit for LHB fixed window	2834 Nos.	25.08.2025
4	30251348	POH Kit for C3W Type Distributor Valve	1026 Sets.	25.08.2025
5	33251474	Must Change Kit for SS-III (M72) for Disc brake unit of EOG	8 Sets.	26.08.2025
6	33251490	Must Change Kit for 3rd Year Maintenance schedule of ESCORTS Make Modified Air Brake System	26 Sets	28.08.2025
7	29251076A	Traction Motor Blower including Motor (Wound with Corona Resistance Wire)	48 Nos.	04.09.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/369/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

IN THE COURT OF IX ADDL. DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU
P & SC. No. 57 of 2024
BETWEEN: SMT. NEELOO SINGH W/o Tagendra Bahadur Singh, Aged about 50 years. R/at No.5/786, Vidharb Khand. Sector - 5 Gomti Nagar Vistar, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow. Uttar Pradesh – 226010 .....**PETITIONER**
AND
Nil .....**RESPONDENT**
Whereas the Petitioner above named has filed the above Petition under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act. praying for grant of probate on the basis of last registered will dated 09/02/2023 executed by the deceased Hemant Singh, S/o Kunwar Bahadur Singh in favour of petitioner in respect of the petition schedule property bequeathed under the will.
Whereas it is hereby informed to the General Public whoever is interested in the subject matter to appear in person or through their counsel and can file their objections in the above case before the Hon'ble Court, in person or through his/her Advocate on **06.06.2025 at 11:00 AM.** Failing which the matter will be heard and disposed of in accordance with law.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Al the piece and parcel of the immovable residential apartment under construction and bearing **No.J-512** in Fifth Floor of Tower 'J' of building-II in the **"Shriram Greenfield Project"** containing **2 Bedrooms** constructed in property bearing No. 150200401601620179 and having Katha bearing No.1056/73/1/73/2A/74/81 issued by the jurisdictional Mandur Grama Panchayathi, Bommenahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli.Bangalore East Taluk being developed on residentially converted lands in Survey Nos. 73/1, 73/24, 74 and 81 in all measuring 19 Acre 274 Guntas (857859.75 Square. Feet/79697.12 Square Meters), converted from agricultural purpose to non-agricultural residential purpose. situated at **Bommenahalli Village,** Bidarahalli Hobli. presently Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, having Carpet Area of 60.11 Square Meters /647.02 Square Feet and Super Built-Up Area of 86.86 Square Meters/935 Square Feet (which includes proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts and staircases) with exclusive right to use of 3.45 Square Meters/ 37.14 Square Feet of exclusive Balcony (*) and (1) One Covered Car Parking Space in the Lower Basement Floor / Upper Basement Floor / Ground Floor and bounded on **East by:** Open Space, **West by:** Lobby. **North by:** J-511, **South by :** OTS.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 2nd Day of May. 2025.
Advocate for Plaintiff:
K. SHRIDHAR & ASSOCIATES - Advocates, No.8, Prabhath Complex, No.318 / 319, 1st Floor, K. G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009. Mail ID: shridharakandassociates@gmail.com **Ph: 9611666554, 9964766554.**
By Order Of the Court, Sd/- **Chief Ministerial Officer** District & Sessions Court, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore-560009

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग प्रथम जोधपुर
क्रमांक 7248 **निविदा सूचना संख्या 14 वर्ष 2025-26** दिनांक 29.07.2025
NIB No. PWD2526A2311
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **विभिन्न सड़को के निर्माण कार्य** हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ईटेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।
निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट **http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in** व **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** व **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। कार्यवार यूबी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
1. PWD2526WLOB08483 2. PWD2526WLOB08486 3. PWD2526WLOB08490
(नेमी चन्द शर्मा)
DIPR/C/11030/2025 अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग प्रथम, जोधपुर

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public are hereby informed that my client **Mr. SUMANTH H. G.** S/o Late H. J. Govindegowda residing at No.11, 8th cross, Srinivasnagara, Pattegarpalya, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore - 560 072 is desirous to purchase of measuring 18.0 Guntas in Survey No. 18/5 and measuring 03.04 Guntas in Survey No. 18/6, situated at KENCHANAKUPPE Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bangalore South belonging to **Smt. GEETHA AREEKAL** W/o. G.A. Sukumar and D/o B. Lalitamba is the absolute Owner & in possession with unrestricted rights of Alienation over the same. Notice is hereby given to the general public that Any Person or Group of persons or institutions other than the Owner Mentioned above having any Interest or Right, Title, Objection, Charge, Lien, Tenancy, Inheritance rights, Encumbrance or any sort of Claims In Whatsoever Manner over the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned their objections, if any, to the proposed Transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties. The Said Objections must be in writing. Together with Documentary Proof of such claims and should reach us at the address given below within a Period of **7 (Seven) days** from the date of this Publication of this Notice, if no such Objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the owner mentioned above has/have any right, title interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties and our client would be at liberty to Proceed with the Transaction in connection with the Said Properties.
Schedule 'A' Property
Land bearing Survey No. 18/5, Katha No. 45, KENCHANAKUPPE Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bangalore South, Measuring to an Extent of 18 (Eighteen) Guntas of Land. East by: Survey No.18/3, West by: Survey No.10/1, North by: Survey No.18/6, South by: Survey No.10/1.
Schedule 'B' Property
Land bearing Previously Survey No.18/3, now Survey No. 18/6, Katha No. 15, KENCHANAKUPPE Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bangalore South, Measuring to an Extent of 03.04 (Three point Four) Guntas of Land. East by: Remaining portion of our own property, West by: Lake, North by: Canal and Road, South by: Property belongs to B. Lalithamba
SHIVA KUMAR. P.V., B.A. LL.B., Advocate
No.133, 1st Main Road, 2nd Stage. 1st Block, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore-560 072.
Phone: +91 99008 25901
Email: shivakumar.pv.legal@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date: 10-08-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are informed that our client intends to purchase Property bearing **No.8BM-212,** presently bearing BBMP E Aasthi Property No.8BM-212 (E.P.I.D No.1100972443) measuring East to West **30 feet** and North to South **40 feet** totally measuring **1200 Sq feet** along with Residential Building consisting of Ground floor measuring 900 Sq feet of built up area, First floor measuring 900 Sq feet of built up area and Second floor measuring 600 Sq feet of built up area totally measuring 2400 Square feet of built-up area, situated at **8th B Main Road, 3rd Cross, East of NGEF Layout, (Kasturi Nagar) Bangalore** and bounded on;
East by : NGEF HBCS Sadananda Nagar;
West by : Site No.8BM 210;
North by : 8th B Main Road;
South by : Site No.8AM 211
From its Owners **Mr.Venkat Sri Rajagopal O and Mrs. Kasthuri O Mudaliyar.**
Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections / claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publication to the undersigned.
Geetha Halliyal,
TAVISA LEGAL Advocates
42 High Street, No.775, 2nd Floor, 100 feet Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038, Ph : 9980519476
email : geethahalliyal@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are informed that our client intends to purchase Land in **Survey No.304/5,** measuring **19 Guntas,** Situated at **Gunjur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk** and bounded on;
East by : Road;
West by : Land in Survey No. 304/2 of Mrs. Rukmanemma wife of Sri Basavaraj;
North by : Road and Property of Mr. Krishnappa;
South by : Land in Survey No. 304/3 and 304/4 of Sri. G N Aravind son of Sri. G R Narayanappa.
From its Owners **Smt. Lakshmamma Daughter of Late Sri. Muthappa, Smt. Sarasa Wife of Late Sri. G M Devraj and others.**
Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections / claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publication to the undersigned.
Geetha Halliyal,
TAVISA LEGAL Advocates
42 High Street, No.775, 2nd Floor, 100 feet Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038, Ph : 9980519476
email : geethahalliyal@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
The public is hereby informed that **Mr. Harish Kumar G.B** S/o Mr. G.N. Basavaraju, residing at No.15, "Dhavalagiri", Ganapathi Halli, Chunchanakuppe Post, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru - 562130, is in the process of negotiating the sale of the below-mentioned property to my client **Mr. Varun K.S.**
The property under negotiation is a **vacant site bearing Site No.: 445, Katha No.: 2/455, PID No.: 150200302403902678 Situated in the layout known as SLN City, and measuring, East to West: 9.00 meters, North to South: 12.00 meters, Total Area: 108 square meters.** The property is located in Survey Nos. 64/4, 61/1, 61/2, 64/1, 64/2, 64/5A, 64/6A1, 64/6A2, 64/4, 72/2, 155 of Ajjanahalli Village, and Sy. Nos. 13/1, 11/3A of Huluvanahalli Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk. **Mr. Harish Kumar G.B** claims to be the present and rightful owner of the said property.
Any person(s) having any right, title, interest, claim, or objection in respect of the said property-whether by way of sale, inheritance, possession, succession, mortgage, lien, lease, gift, or otherwise howsoever are hereby called upon to submit their objections, if any, in writing, along with relevant supporting documents, to the undersigned **within 15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice.
Failing such written objections within the stipulated period, it shall be deemed that no such claims exist, and any such rights, if any, shall be considered as waived and/or abandoned. My client shall then proceed to conclude the transaction without any further reference, and no claims shall be entertained thereafter.
Sd/- M ANAND GANESH, Advocate for the Purchaser
No. 34, Swaghat Lakshmi Nivas, 1st Floor, 7th Main, CHBS Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560040

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E- TENDER NOTICE No. 22/MYS/2025 of 04-08-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Item of work	Approx Value
1	Construction of Track machine siding and other allied works at Molakalmuru & Ranibennur station **Sub Work-I:**-Construction of Track machine siding and allied works at Molakalmuru A:- Ancillary track works for construction of track machine siding at MOMU B:- Construction of Relay room at MOMU station C:- MOMU-Roofing Arrangements for 25m length (1.5 x 2x 25)=75 sqm D:- MOMU-Pathway 1.5m width for 300m length on both sides (2 *300*1.50) E:- MOMU-Provision of approach road (150 x 3.5 wide) F:- MOMU-Construction of High level platform 60m length and 5m width **Sub Work-II**:Construction of Track machine siding and allied works at Ranibennur A:- Ancillary track works for construction of track machine siding at Ranibennur B:- RNR-Roofing Arrangements for 25m length (1.5 x 2x 25)=75 sqm C:- RNR-Pathway 1.5m width for 300m length on both sides (2 *300*1.50) D:- RNR-Provision of approach road (150 x 3.5 wide) E:- RNR-Construction of High level platform 60m length and 5m width	Rs. 1,98,48,495/-
2	**Assistant Divisional Engineer /Mysuru :** W beam fencing in Mysuru-Chamarajanagar and Mysuru-Hole Narsipur section:- (Mysuru-Hole Narsipur 1/800-900 LH - 100m, 2/00-200 LH - 100m, 2/300-400 LH - 100m, 3/400-500 LH 100m, 6/200-300 LH & RH - 100m, 15/200- 300 LH & RH - 200m, 15/900-16/100 LH- 200m, 16/300-400 LH & RH - 200m, 17/300-500 RH - 100m, 38/400-500 LH 100m, 66/500-600 LH & RH - 100m, 77/300-400 LH & RH - 100m, 86/00-100 LH 100m, 86/300-400 LH & RH - 100m, Mysuru-Chamarajanagar 7/700-8/000 LH - 200m, 19/00-200 RH - 100m, 22/300-400 LH - 200m, 23/700-900 RH - 200m, 25/550-650 LH - 100m, 29/700-800 LH & RH - 200m, 41/200-300 RH - 100m, 41/300-400 RH - 100m.	Rs. 1,33,05,275/-
3	**Hassan-Mangaluru JN. Section:**Repairs to the Embankment Slope of Bridge No. 173 by Providing Gabion Walls at Km 54/400-500	Rs. 75,34,339/-
4	**Mysuru - Yeliyur :** Provision of safety fencing with W-beam metal barriers for 34.05 Km for with Vande Bharat routes and further Increasing speed to 130kmph.	Rs. 12,98,47,058/-
5	**Sub Work-I:** Arsikere - Birur Section TRR(S) on loop lines at BLKR Rd-1 & BVR Rd-1 for length of 1.630 kms **Sub Work-II:** Arsikere yard: TRR(S) on loop lines at Arsikere-Rd- 5,6 & 8 for length of 2.723 kms	Rs. 65,15,234/-
6	**Divisional Engineer/Central/Mysuru Jurisdiction:** Preparation of soil exploration report, Collection of Field Data, Preparation of Concept Plan Drawing for Elimination of LCs (69 Nos.) **Sub Work-I**: Assistant Divisional Engineer/Arsikere Jurisdiction: Preparation of soil exploration report, Collection of Field Data, Preparation of Concept Plan Drawing for Elimination of LCs (34 Nos.) **Sub Work-II**: Assistant Divisional Engineer /Shivamogga Town Jurisdiction: Preparation of soil exploration report, Collection of Field Data, Preparation of Concept Plan Drawing for Elimination of LCs (35 Nos.)	Rs. 1,57,49,721/-
7	**Mysuru Division:-** Manufacture, supply, and stacking of machine-crushed track ballast as per RDSO specifications to address ballast profile deficiencies through lifting / mechanical tamping, in view of increased sectional speed attention at Amaravathi Colony depot.	Rs. 4,66,20,636/-

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 28-08-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/368/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination/Mysuru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that our client intends to purchase the property described in the **Schedule** hereunder from its present owner, **Smt. Deepti Ladhani,** W/o Sri. Prakash Ladhani, residing at No. 12, 3rd Main Road, near Jayamahal Playground, Jayamahal Extension, Benson Town, Bengaluru – 560046, she having purchased the same from M/s. Udaya Enterprises, a proprietary concern of Mr. Anurag Jain represented by Power of Attorney Holder, M/s. S I Property Development Ltd, under the following Sale Deeds all registered at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore:

Unit No.	Registration Details
6	Document No. 1573/2000-01 Book I, volume 4546 at pages 113 to 127 dated 29.05.2000
7	Document No. 1572/2000-01 Book I, volume 4546 at pages 98 to 112 dated 29.05.2000
8	Document No. 1575/2000-01 Book I, volume 4546 at pages 143 to 157 dated 29.05.2000
9	Document No. 1821/2000-01 Book I, volume 4555 at pages 183 to 197 dated 07.06.2000

Smt. Deepti Ladhani entered into an **Agreement to Sell** dated 02.04.2025 with **Sri. Lokesh Shivaraja,** S/o Sri.Sangappa Shivaraja and **Sri.Pavan Rangaraj,** S/o Late Sri. Rangaraj, agreeing to sell the aforementioned units and the said Agreement to Sell is subsisting as on date.
All persons/banks/companies/firms/financial institutions having or claiming any right title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described, are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned at the below given address along with all the documents relating to such claim within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and we shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and our client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of **Commercial Office Spaces**, situated on the **Ground Floor** in the building known as **'CARLTON TOWERS'** constructed on Survey No. 171 to 175 of Kodihalli Village, presently Municipal No. 1, HAL II Stage, HAL Airport Road, Bengaluru as follows:

Unit No.	Undivided Interest in land (sq ft)	Super Built up area (sq ft)	Basement Car Park No.	PID No.
6	466.46	1102	14	74-87-1/5
7	460.84	1093	Nil	74-87-1/6
8	359.68	859	16	74-87-1/7
9	309.10	734	Nil	74-87-1/8

The entire property on which Carlton Towers is constructed is bounded on the:
East by : Part of Sy Nos. 172,173,174,175 of Kodihalli Village;
West by : 12.19M wide Road;
North by : 9.12M wide Road;
South by : Bangalore-Varthur Road and part of Sy No. 172 of Kodihalli Village
Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto,
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 10.08.2025

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY **E-TENDER NOTICE**
Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to **15.00 hours on 29.08.2025** as below:- **Tender No.** : 114 **Name of work with its Location** : Augmentation of passenger amenities at Bhiwani City station of Bikaner Division under ADEN/Bhiwani **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 43740436.67 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 368700.00 **Tender No.** : 115 **Name of work with its Location** : Track work & other allied works in connection with provision of extension of existing TMC siding along with facilities in connection with RGM in the jurisdiction DEN/East under control of ADEN/Sirsa. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 13175472.81 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 215900.00 **Tender No.** : 116 **Name of work with its Location** : Repair to minor/ major bridges in the section of RE- BNW, RE-SDLP & ROK-BNW under ADEN/Bhiwani. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 10819099.66 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 204100.00 **Tender No.** : 117 **Name of work with its Location** : Raising of PF No.1 at Sardarshahar station from ML to HL & raising of remaining portion of PF No.1 at Sri Dungargarh station from ML to HL under ADEN/Ratangarh. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 34168168.74 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 320900.00 **Tender No.** : 118 **Name of work with its Location** : Raising of platform no. 2 at Satnali station of Bikaner Division from Medium Level to High Level along with extension to 580 metres under ADEN/N.W.Rly.- Sadulpur. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 22465212.33 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 262300.00 **Tender No.** : 119 **Name of work with its Location** : Raising of Medium Level PF No.1 at Gugalwa Kirtan Halt, Kandhran Halt, Kushalpura Halt & Paharsar Halt stations of Bikaner Division along with extension to 480 metres under ADEN/N.W.Rly.- Sadulpur. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 64371328.88 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 471900.00 **Tender No.** : 120 **Name of work with its Location** : Raising of Medium Level PF No.2 at Diplana, Khinaniyan & Sherekan stations over Bikaner Division along with extension from 405 m to 580 m under ADEN/Hanumangarh-II. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 68686138.65 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 493400.00 **Tender No.** : 121 **Name of work with its Location** : Raising of Medium Level PF No.1 at Buglanwali Halt, Zorawarpura Halt, Sri Ramgarh Halt & Jorkian Halt stations over Bikaner Division along with extension to 480 m under ADEN/Hanumangarh-II **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 68913099.62 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 494600.00 **Tender No.** : 122 **Name of work with its Location** : Raising of Medium Level PF No.2 at Dholipal & Rail Level PF No.2 at Rang Mahal station over Bikaner Division along with extension to 580 m under ADEN/Hanumangarh-I **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 45548722.75 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 377800.00 **Tender No.** : 123 **Name of work with its Location** : Bikaner Division: Renewal of Glued Joints-356 nos over Bikaner Division under Control ADEN/Line/Bikaner. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 3876492.02 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 77500.00 **Tender No.** : 124 **Name of work with its Location** : Provision of Minimum Essential Amenities at various stations of Bikaner Division to recoup shortfall in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/West/BKN. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 37316803.22 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 336600.00 **Tender No.** : 125 **Name of work with its Location** : Provision of new six no. of rooms with lath bath facilities, Gym, store and repair to door, tiles in existing rooms with colour wash and painting in Loco running room at SOG under jurisdiction of ADEN/SOG **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 11045239.03 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 205200.00 **Tender No.** : 126 **Name of work with its Location** : Provision of fault analysis rooms (Diagnostic Panel Room of size 3mx3m) at 40 way side stations in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/West/Bikaner over Bikaner Division. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 13704242.29 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 218500.00 **Tender No.** : 127 **Name of work with its Location** : Through Rail Renewal (Primary) with 60 kg rail on passenger running loop line of 15.964 kms in Ratangarh- Sadulpur Section Under ADEN/Ratangarh **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 13471496.91 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 217400.00 **Tender No.** : 128 **Name of work with its Location** : Installation of track mounted automatic Gauge Face Lubricators on curves- 203 Nos over Bikaner division under control of ADEN/Ratangarh. **Approx. Cost of work** : Rs. 153228466.09 **Earnest Money** : Rs. 916200.00 **Note**- Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website www.ireps.gov.in.
992-DR/25
Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

Four years late, Namma Metro's Yellow Line ready for inauguration

The project was initially scheduled for completion by December 2021 but was plagued by a series of setbacks, including hold-ups in rolling stock supply from Chinese manufacturer CRRC Nanjing

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

After nearly four years of anticipation and multiple delays, the much-awaited Yellow Line of Namma Metro, from R.V. Road to Bommasandra, will finally be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday. The 19.15-km corridor is expected to transform commuting in the city's tech corridor, particularly benefiting lakhs of employees working in Electronic City and helping decongest traffic at the infamous Silk Board junction.

Originally envisioned in the 2011 Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), construction of the Yellow Line began in 2017. It was initially scheduled for completion by December 2021, but the project was plagued by a series of setbacks including delays in land acquisition, the COVID-19 pandemic, and hold-ups in rolling stock supply from the Chinese manufacturer CRRC Nanjing.

Built at a cost of ₹7,610 crore, the Yellow Line adds 16 stations to the city's metro network, expanding the total operational length of Namma Metro to 96 km. The line is fully elevated and features Bengaluru's first driverless trains, although according to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials, they will initially operate with loco pilots for safety and familiarity.

This metro line is integrated with the city's first double-decker flyover, located between Silk Board Junction and Ragigudda Metro Station.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bengaluru

10.30 a.m. Arrival at HAL Airport

11.15 a.m. - 11.25 a.m. Karntiveera Sangolli Rayanna City Railway Station

Flagging off of trains

- Bengaluru - Belagavi Vande Bharat train (physically)
- Amritsar - Sri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (virtually)
- Nagpur - Pune (virtually)

11.45 a.m. - 12.50 p.m. R.V. Road (Ragigudda Metro Station)

- Flagging off of Yellow Line (Reach - 5); and Metro ride from R.V. Road (Ragigudda Metro Station) to Electronics City Metro Station

1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m. International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore campus

- Laying of foundation stone for Metro Phase III
- Inauguration of Yellow Line from R.V. Road to Bommasandra Metro Station

2.45 p.m. Departure from HAL Airport to Delhi

"Once all trains are delivered and fully inducted, the line is expected to carry over 2.5 lakh passengers daily," an official said.

The line also features crucial interchanges at R.V. Road (Green Line), Jayadeva Hospital (Pink Line), and Central Silk Board (Blue Line–Phases 2A & 2B). Jayadeva Interchange Station, touted as the city's largest and only double-elevated interchange metro station, is a four-tier structure with 12 entrances and lifts in all zones.

Serving the tech corridor

The Yellow Line connects major IT hubs including Infosys, Wipro, Biocon, Tech Mahindra, and Delta Electronics. The line ends at Bommasandra, adjacent to Delta Electronics, and passes through areas like BTM Layout, Kudlu Gate, Electronic City, and Hebbagodi easing travel for thousands of tech workers and reducing dependency on their own vehicles.

Officials said that with only three driverless trains currently available, initial services will operate every 25 minutes. Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL), which partnered with CRRC Nanjing, has delivered three trains so far.

"A fourth train has been dispatched and is expected to join the fleet after completing safety and operational checks by August end," a official added.

Commuters frustrated

Full-scale operations where trains run at a higher frequency are expected only by next year, when BMRCL receives all 34 train sets.

While BMRCL initially considered opening only seven stations, all 16 stations along the Yellow Line will be made operational from day one. For a city grappling with mounting traffic congestion, especially on Hosur Road and at junctions like Silk Board and Electronic City, the new metro line offers a much-needed alternative.

However, commuters are not happy with the way the project has progressed. They say the launch appears symbolic, offering limited benefits for daily travellers due to the inadequate number of trains.

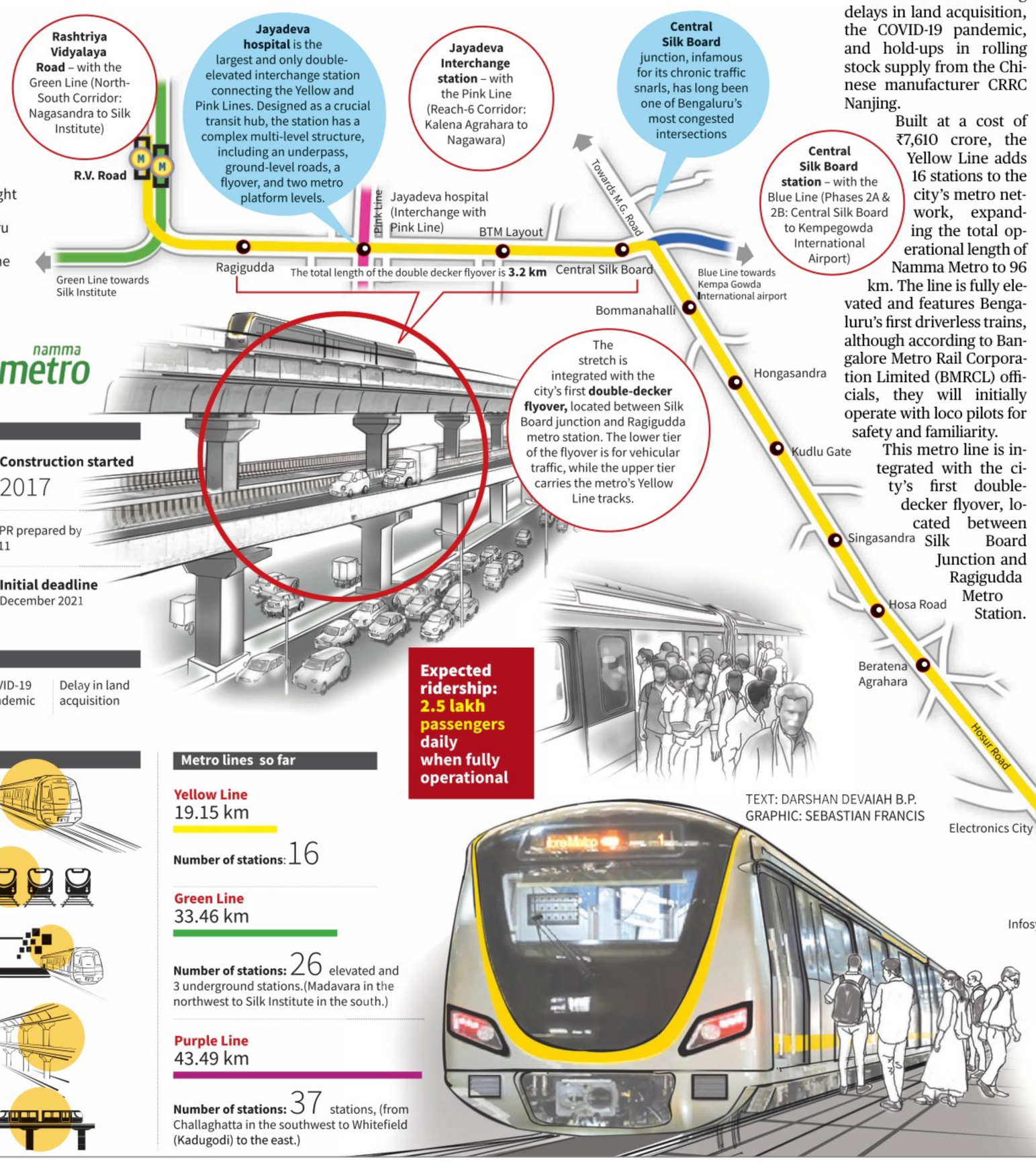
Naveen Kumar, a resident of Bommanahalli, said, "One train every 25 minutes, and we're inaugurating it as well? This is a serious joke now. With such long gaps between trains and the expected crowd, it's going to be a nightmare".

Four metro stations to be closed for 2 hours

Due to security reasons given Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit, four metro stations – Lalbagh, South End Circle, Jayanagar, and R.V. Road metro stations – will remain closed for commuters from 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday, BMRCL has said in a statement.

Yellow Line finally ready after eight years, to be inaugurated today

Delays are nothing new for the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., but after eight years of public demand and mounting pressure, Bengaluru Metro's Yellow Line is finally set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi



Highlights of Yellow Line

Completion cost	Construction started
₹7,610 crore	2017

Originally envisioned In the DPR prepared by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation in 2011

Launch date	Initial deadline
August 10, 2025 (by Prime Minister Narendra Modi)	December 2021

Reasons for delay

Delay in supply of rolling stock from Chinese manufacturer CRRC Nanjing	COVID-19 pandemic	Delay in land acquisition

Operational details

Number of trains: 34 (initially, only three trains to operate)

Initial service: Three driverless trains to operate every 25 minutes

Route highlights: Serves major tech corridors – Infosys, Wipro, Biocon, Delta Electronics, Tech Mahindra

Double-decker flyover: Integrated with Bengaluru's first double-decker flyover, connecting Silk Board junction to Ragigudda metro station

Track type: Entire stretch is fully elevated

Metro lines so far

Yellow Line 19.15 km
Number of stations: 16

Green Line 33.46 km
Number of stations: 26 elevated and 3 underground stations.(Madavara in the northwest to Silk Institute in the south.)

Purple Line 43.49 km
Number of stations: 37 stations, (from Challaghatta in the southwest to Whitefield (Kadugodi) to the east.)

Expected ridership: 2.5 lakh passengers daily when fully operational

TEXT: DARSHAN DEVAIAH B.P.
GRAPHIC: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

BMTC's feeder services for Yellow Line metro to operate from tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is set to introduce four new metro feeder bus services to go in alignment with the commencement of the Namma Metro's Yellow line operations. The feeder services will be operational from Monday.

"These feeder services are designed to facilitate seamless first- and last-mile connectivity for passengers travelling to and from metro stations, particularly benefiting commuters in the Electronics City, Bommasandra, and Kodathi regions," BMTC said in a release on Saturday.

These feeder services are designed to facilitate seamless first- and last-mile connectivity for passengers FILE PHOTO

Route details

MF - 22: Electronics City - Konappana Agrahara - Hosaroad - Kasavanahalli - Kaikondrahalli - Doddakannalli

MF - 22 A: Konappana Agrahara - Electronics City - Huskur Gate - Chintala Madivala - Muttanalluru Cross - Thimmasandra Cross - Chandapura Cross

Both of these routes will depart from Electronics City Wipro Gate and Kodathi Wipro at different times during the day.

MF - 22 B: Bommasandra - Thirupalya Cross - S-Mando-3 - Electronics City Wipro Gate - Konappana Agrahara - Electronics City - Hebbagodi - Bommasandra

MF - 22 C: Konappana Agrahara - Electronics City Wipro Gate - S-Mando-3 - Thirupalya Cross - Bommasandra - Hebbagodi - Electronics City - Konappana Agrahara

All of these feeders will connect metro stations with major IT/residential hubs.

Ramalinga Reddy slams BJP for taking credit; says State's contribution much higher

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Saturday hit out at BJP leaders, including State president B.Y. Vijayendra and MP for Bengaluru South Tejasvi Surya, for claiming that the Yellow Line – set to be inaugurated on August 10 – was solely a Central government initiative.

Speaking at a press conference here, Mr. Reddy said the BJP was more interested in publicity than work and accused its leaders of ignoring the State's major financial role. "They do not even know the history of the metro project in Karnataka. In 2006, when N. Dharam Singh was the Chief Minister, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh laid the foundation stone. The metro project is a people's institution, not the property of any political party," he said.

Funding pattern

Asserting that in this project, the State government is not a minor partner, Mr. Reddy released documents to show the funding pattern. "In every phase, Karnataka has contributed as much or more than the Centre, including land acquisition and cost escalations. In Phase 1, the State gave 30% plus land while the Centre's contribution was 25%; in Phase 2, the Centre's share was just 20%, and in Phase 3, Karnataka bore land and rehabilitation costs entirely," he said.

Dismissing Mr. Surya's claim that Congress governments built only 6 km of metro, the Transport Minister said: "In Phase 1 alone, we planned 42 km. The State has spent ₹24,064.3 crore against the Centre's ₹17,803.85 crore, with ₹43,498.53 crore raised through loans guaranteed by the State".

Delays by Centre

Countering an allegation that delays caused a loss of ₹400 crore per km, Mr. Reddy said: "Is the Centre not equally responsible? Who delayed the arrival of train coaches? Who issues environmental clearances? Is it not the Central government? All these approvals come after Union Cabinet clearance. Even the route safety certificate comes from the Centre. So the delays are due to them. For 11 years, the BJP has ruled at the Centre. They purposely delay because Congress is in power in the State and then blame us. Our Chief Minister has put pressure on the Union Ministers concerned for clearances."

He accused State's BJP MPs of failing to raise the issue of the 15th Finance Commission's allocation of ₹11,495 crore for the Peripheral Ring Road and lake development, which he said was denied to the State. "They will not speak up in Parliament for Karnataka's share but will criticise the State government," he remarked.

On metro fare hikes, Mr. Reddy clarified that the decision rests with a committee appointed by the Centre, whose report is approved by the Delhi Metro Board, headed by a senior Union Urban Development Ministry official.

Contribution to the project

	Share of GoK	Share of GoI	Debt by BMRCL for which GoK stands as a guarantor
Phase I	30%, including land acquisition costs	25%	45%
Phase II	30% + land acquisition costs + most part of cost escalation	20%	50%
Phase III	20% + land acquisition and rehabilitation costs	20%	60%

*As per information given by Ramalinga Reddy, Transport Minister, GoK

> They do not even know the history of the metro project. In 2006, when N. Dharam Singh was the Chief Minister, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh laid the foundation stone
>
> **RAMALINGA REDDY**
> TRANSPORT MINISTER

Traffic likely to be affected today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bengaluru on Sunday to flag off trains, the Yellow Line of Namma Metro and lay foundation for Phase III, is expected to cause some traffic disruptions in the city.

However, the Prime Minister will fly in a helicopter between HAL Airport and Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna City railway station and from Electronics City to HAL airport, and travel by Namma Metro from R.V. Road station to Electronics City station, minimising his travel by road.

A senior traffic police official said that since the programme is being held on a Sunday, traffic will anyway be thin and the inconvenience the commuters will face be minimal.

Traffic restrictions

The Bengaluru Traffic Police have issued an advisory imposing traffic restrictions on a few major roads on Sunday between 8.30 a.m. and 2.30 pm. People have been advised to avoid Marenahalli Main Road, Silk Board to Hosur via the Electronics City Elevated Flyover. BTP has said traffic congestion is expected on Hosur Road and NICE Road towards Electronics City.

They have also advised commuters to avoid the stretch from Hosur to Bengaluru city, which is expected to hit inter-State traffic.

There will also be restrictions around the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna City railway station in the morning, as the Prime Minister will also flag off the Bengaluru - Belagavi Vande Bharat Express train at the station.

Due to this event at the station, South Western Railways has announced cancellations, rescheduling, and diversions of several trains that were to depart from and arrive at the station.

City turns a fortress

In light of the Prime Minister's visit, the Bengaluru City Police have taken up extensive blockade both in the city and at the entry and exit points of the city, conducting surprise checks at hotels, PG accommodations, and guest houses, and increased security at bus, railway, and metro stations.

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'KPCC has set up five panels to monitor voting irregularities'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To prevent electoral malpractices, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) has already formed five committees comprising senior party leaders, said KPCC working president G.C. Chandrashekar on Saturday.

Speaking at a programme organised by the KPCC to mark the Quit India Movement day, Mr. Chandrashekar said the committees headed by Nagaraj Yadav, MLC, comprise five MLCs, a former Mayor, and leaders of the ruling party.

"They will monitor voting irregularities in all constituencies in the coming days. If anyone thinks electoral malpractice is not a big issue, it is their foolishness," he said.

He accused the BJP of undermining democracy through electoral malpractice and misuse of Central agencies. "The BJP, in collusion with the Election Commission, manipulated poll results," he said, claiming that if elections had been transparent, Prime Minister Narendra Modi would not be in the top post.

"The BJP knows how to win elections, not how to govern," he remarked, accusing the party of using the ED, the CBI, and the Income Tax Department to target Opposition leaders while rewarding defectors with high posts. "The Prime Minister must work for the nation's interest, not his own," he said.

Law Department will hold inquiry into 'vote fraud': CM

Siddaramaiah says whatever action is possible will be initiated based on recommendations of the department

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said here on Saturday that the Law Department would conduct an inquiry into the issue of alleged vote fraud during the Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking to presspersons at the airport, Mr. Siddaramaiah said whatever action was possible would be initiated based on the recommendations of the department. He was responding to a query on party leader Rahul Gandhi's suggestion that the government should act on "vote fraud".

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking to presspersons at the Mysuru airport on Saturday. M.A. SRIRAM

Mr. Gandhi had alleged that 1,00,250 "fake votes" were created in Mahadevapura in Bengaluru to ensure a BJP win in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

In response to a question on whether the issue could be examined in its entirety before the BBMP elections, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the Advocate-General would be instructed to conduct the probe quickly and submit a report.

On BJP's allegation that the Congress was belatedly raising the issue of the alleged vote fraud, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the internal survey of the Congress indicated that the party would win 16 seats but could win only nine.

"Now, Mr. Gandhi has referred to the official records and presented the details with evidence and all this information is available with the State and the Central Election Commission. We came to know of the irregularities only after studying the matter," said Mr. Siddaramaiah, and questioned how 80 people could live in one room.

In response to a question on whether the judiciary should *suo motu* intervene in the "vote fraud" case, the Chief Minister did not give a direct reply but said that the Congress had been stating for a long time that elections were being manipulated and so were the voters' list and the EVMs. "What Mr. Gandhi has presented before the media is true," he added.

Responding to allegations of former Union Minister C.M. Ibrahim that Mr. Siddaramaiah had "purchased" 3,000 votes in Badami in the 2018 elections, the Chief Minister said that he had been to Badami only twice.

"I went to Badami once to file the nomination and another time for campaigning. Beyond that I know nothing and this issue is new to me. The query should be directed to him (Mr. Ibrahim)," he added.

When questioned about an election speech he made years ago which has gone viral now, where he alluded to dead people having exercised their franchise in the byelections, the Chief Minister said the Election Commission was responsible if votes had been cast in the name of the dead.

'Give evidence under oath or tender public apology'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking serious exception to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi not submitting evidence under oath to the Election Commission to support his allegation of "vote theft," senior BJP leader S. Suresh Kumar on Saturday urged him to either provide the evidence or tender a public apology.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Mr. Kumar maintained that Mr. Gandhi was doing a great disservice to democratic institutions by questioning their credibility.

He wondered why Mr. Gandhi refused to visit the EC office which was very near to the site where he addressed a protest rally in Bengaluru on Friday, despite the EC asking him to submit evidence under oath.

"Mr. Gandhi has never shown maturity, constructiveness, positive frame of mind, and forward-looking attitude during his entire political career. He continues to indulge in his favourite pastime of spit and run and hit and run. This is nothing but irresponsibility. This does not befit the post he is holding," Mr. Kumar said.

Taking serious exception to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge blaming his poll debacle for voter fraud, Mr. Kumar said it was not fitting for a veteran leader to make such wild allegations. "If voter fraud is the reason for his defeat, then how could his son-in-law win from the same constituency next time?," he wondered.

Monsoon Session: Fireworks expected over a host of issues

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The Monsoon Session of the State legislature starting on Monday is expected to witness heated exchanges between the Congress and the BJP and the JD(S) on many boiling issues, including the allegation of vote theft, shortage of fertilizers, stampede at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Special Investigation Team probe into alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala, and "failure" to maintain law and order.

In fact, there is no dearth of issues this time that have potential to trigger a heated debate in the legislature. The latest addition to the long list of contentious issues is the allegation of vote theft by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi that has been countered by the BJP.

Fertilizer shortage
During the nine-day session, the Opposition and the Congress are all set to indulge in a political slugfest over the shortage of fertilizers during the kharif season. While the BJP has blamed the State government for creating an "artificial crisis" in the supply of urea, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah slammed the Centre for the delay in the supply of the farm input allocated to the State. Members are expected to raise the rain-related damages to crops and infrastructure and demand immediate release of compensation to farmers.

Dharmasthala
The Opposition is expected to fire a fresh salvo against the Congress on the ongoing SIT probe into the alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala. The BJP, which welcomed the SIT probe, has accused the government of remaining silent on spreading misinformation about Shri Manjunatha Swamy temple and hurting the sentiments of devotees. The Opposition is looking forward to answers from the government on the progress of the probe and alleged involvement of leaders from Kerala in "anti-temple propaganda."

Law and order
The Opposition is likely to criticise the government on the alleged failure by authorities in properly handling RCB's victory celebrations on June 4 in Bengaluru and the law and order issue in Dakshina Kannada. While John Michael Cunha's report gave a clean chit to the government with respect to the stampede at M. Chinnaswamy stadium that claimed 11 lives, putting the blame on a private stakeholder who was part of the celebration and its own police officials has garnered widespread public criticism.

The back-to-back killings in Mangaluru ignited communal passions in the region. The BJP's allegations that communal harmony in the coastal districts had gone for a toss ever since the Congress assumed power is expected to raise the heat. The Opposition has been alleging that the power tussle between the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister had "weakened" the administration, turning the State into a safe abode for anti-national activities.

Corruption charges
The alleged housing scam in the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Ltd. has provided more fodder for the Opposition. Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok accused the government of collecting ₹25 crore from each Minister for meeting the party's expenses in the upcoming elections in Bihar. The BJP leaders also alleged corruption in awarding a tender in favour of a private company to supply smart electricity meters at an exorbitant price. Earlier, the Opposition had embarrassed the government in alleged scams in MUDA, the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, and actor Ranya Rao's gold smuggling case.

Caste census
Another question is whether the session will see tabling of the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission report on internal quota among Scheduled Castes. The Cabinet is expected to discuss the report on August 16. However, the Opposition is likely to question the necessity of conducting a fresh survey.

Bills
The government is expected to table a few prominent Bills, including the Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2025, the Greater Bengaluru Governance (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and other Bills for replacing ordinances.

Minimum wage revision: Four petitions filed in High Court even before final notification

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The process of the revision of minimum wages for an estimated 1.7 crore workers across 84 scheduled employment in the State, which is currently under way, has already seen a slew of petitions in the High Court of Karnataka even before the final notification of wages.

As many as four writ petitions have been filed so far seeking the setting aside of the draft notification that has proposed revision of wages to a range of ₹19,319.36 for unskilled to ₹34,225.42 for highly skilled workers.

The Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes' Association (PHANA), Nanjappa Hospitals and Nanjappa Trust, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA), and Peenya Industries' Association have approached the court since the draft notification was published on April 11, 2025.

Currently, the Karnataka State Minimum Wages Advisory Board, a tripartite body set up by the State government having equal representation from employers, employees and independent members, has begun its consultation.

The prayer
While all the four petitions have prayed for setting aside the draft notification, which has been opposed by the industries as "very steep" and that they claim could result in flight of capital, PHANA and Nanjappa Hospitals have specifically sought setting aside of notification pertaining to employment in hospitals, maternity homes, nursing homes, clinics and addiction free centres. The court, however, has not stayed the process.

Common notification
"Unlike the past when separate notifications to each scheduled employment were issued to revise minimum wages, this time a common notification has been issued for 84 scheduled employment. About 250 skills have been proposed, which will cause confusion. Unequals are treated equally," said B.C. Prabhakar, who is representing in all the four cases.

He further argued that though minimum wages were revised in 34 scheduled employment two years ago, another revision has been proposed. "As per the Act the revision is to be taken up once in five years or if done before, valid reasons have to be provided. Compared to six neighbouring States, wages in Karnataka will double. We are seeking parity. The court has told that before any final decision is made, the court has to be informed."

Trade unions' view
While employers are contending that the Supreme Court's ruling in the Reptakos Brett case on fixing wages is not mandatory, the trade unions, on the other hand, argue that the guidelines are to be followed in fixing wages.

"The industry has equal representation on the minimum wages advisory board and they should represent their views in the statutory body. This is an important revision that affects more than 1.7 crore workers in the State," said M. Satyananda, secretary of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Karnataka State Committee.

He further argued that the draft notification follows the set guidelines by the Supreme Court, and comparison with wages in other States is irrelevant to Karnataka.

'In many sectors, Central Bank of India is outperforming rivals'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Central Bank of India has been outperforming its competitors in the areas of total deposits across retail, agriculture and MSME (RAM) sectors, said M.V. Murali Krishna, its Executive Director.

Addressing a gathering on the eve of the 144th anniversary of the bank's founder Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala, who set up Central Bank of India in 1911, here recently, he emphasised the bank's commitment to innovation and customer service adding the second phase of its digital transformation journey was currently under way.

> Our digital transformation journey includes the integration of Artificial Intelligence into routine banking transactions, aimed at enhancing customer experience and operational efficiency
>
> **M.V. MURALI KRISHNA,** Central Bank of India executive director

"Our digital transformation journey includes the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into routine banking transactions, aimed at enhancing customer experience and operational efficiency," Mr. Krishna said.

On the eve of the 144th birth anniversary of Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala, the founder of Central Bank of India, the regional office in Bangalore organised a grand celebration to mark the occasion.

On the occasion, all the customers, stakeholders, and staff of the bank who have contributed to its 114-year journey were thanked.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
(District Urban Development Cell)
Kalaburagi District, Kalaburagi, Telephone No: 08472 – 278604 Fax no: 08472 – 278602,
E-mail: ka.kalaburagi.dudc@gmail.com & itstaff_dudc_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No.DUDC/Plan/LED/47/2025-26 Date:08.08.2025

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

The Deputy Commissioner, Kalaburagi district, Kalaburagi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal in two cover system using **RFP Document** from the **Registered Service Providers** for the Below work of Kalaburagi District Package work as detailed below:-
1) Description of Work : Appointment of Transaction Advisor for Implementation of Energy Efficiency Project for streetlights by replacement of existing conventional lamps with LED lamps along with Centralized Control & Monitoring System (CCMS) in Kalaburagi District All CMC, TMCs & TPs (Except City Corporation kalaburagi), Karnataka State. **INDENT NO:-DMA/2025-26/SE5773**, 2) EMD Amount (Rs. In lakhs) : **0.48**, 3) Class of Contractor : Registered Consultancy Service Providers. 4) Period of Completion : As per RFP Document.
Service Providers can download and submit the tenders from dated:**08.08.2025** through **Karnataka Public Procurement portal at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:
1) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **22.08.2025 upto 5.30 PM**, 2) Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **25.08.2025 upto 5.30 PM**, 3) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **28.08.2025 at 11.30 AM**, 4) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **06.09.2025 at 11.30 AM**
Postponement of Calender of events (if any is only through KPP Portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Project Director,
District Urban Development Cell, Kalaburagi.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/375/KSMC&A/2025-26

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ
ಆದಿ ಉಡುಪಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ–576103 ದೂರವಾಣಿ:0820–2530062

ಸಂ: ಕೃ ಉಮಾಸ(ಉಡುಪಿ)/597/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–08–2025

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಉಡುಪಿ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ಮೇಲ್ಚಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಳೆ ನೀರು ಸೋರದಂತೆ ಗ್ಯಾಲ್ವಾಲಿಯಂ ಶೀಟ್ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವುದರೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಶೆಡ್ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್) ಕುರಿತು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯಿದೆ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ, ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆಗಳಂತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಅನುಸಾರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ Standard Tender Documents KW-3 Clause 3 ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.88.60 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:25.08.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.08.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಲಿಖಿತ ಕಾರಣವನ್ನು ಕೊಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ಪುರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಸಮಿತಿಯು ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–, ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ(ಪ), ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ಉಡುಪಿ
ಸಹಿ/–, ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ಉಡುಪಿ

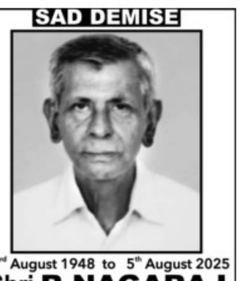
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

NINTH ANNIVERSARY
Sri. G. Segaran
(09/08/1954 - 10/08/2016)
Founder / Proprietor of NEHRU STORES
Fondly remembered by
Smt. S. Mallika and family.

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



23rd August 1948 to 5th August 2025
Shri.R.NAGARAJ
Elder Son of Air Marshal Rajaram (Padma Bhushan awardee)
Ret'd. Sr. Manager, R.G.N. Price & Co.
aged 77 yrs, Attained Sivaloka Prapti at his residence No.2, Adam Street, Mylapore on 05.08.2025.
Deeply Mourned by:
Mrs. Ramaa Nagaraj
Family & Friends Ph:7397253394.

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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Coimbatore student drowns in Palakkad

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKKAD

Two students from Coimbatore were swept away while bathing in the Bharatapuzha at Chittur in Palakkad district of Kerala on Saturday afternoon. They were among a 10-member team of students from the neighbouring city in Tamil Nadu.

Sree Gautam, one of the students, died on the way to hospital after rescue workers pulled him out of the river.

Another student, Arun, is missing. A search is on for him.

Two scuba teams of the Keraka Fire and Rescue Services are engaged in the search for the missing student.

Arun is feared trapped in a causeway tunnel after he and his friends attempted to swim despite strong undercurrents.

The students were seemingly unaware of the hidden dangers beneath the causeway.

Regulator shut

Kerala Power Minister K. Krishnankutty oversaw the rescue efforts. The government temporarily shut down the Moolathara regulator to calm the river's currents.

This decision was made to facilitate a more effective search operation for the missing student.

A police officer said the causeway, functioning as a check dam, had several shutters allowing water to flow through.

(With PTI inputs)

3 persons killed in blast at illegal fireworks unit in Virudhunagar

Explosion occurred around 11.30 a.m. and when neighbours rushed to the spot in the next few minutes, the three had died

The Hindu Bureau
VIRUDHUNAGAR

Three persons, two of them women, were killed in an explosion at an illegal fireworks unit at Vijayakarisalkulam, near Sattur, in Virudhunagar district on Saturday.

Preliminary inquiries revealed that a house, where the unit operated, belonged to a person identified as Ponnu Pandian of East Street at Vijayakarisalkulam. Three to five persons were said to be making firecrackers at the time of the accident.

Around 11.30 a.m., a massive blast was reported from the unit. When neighbours rushed to the spot, they found the three persons dead and a woman injured. All had suffered burns. The Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services personnel from Vembakottai rushed to the spot, and the bodies were removed. The Vembakottai police identified the deceased as Jagadeesan, 20, of Keezhakottai, Nachiapuram; Muthulakshmi, 65; and Shanmugathai, 60. The bodies were sent to a government hospital for a post-mortem.

Fatal blast: The fireworks unit at Vijayakarisalkulam near Sattur, where the explosion occurred. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The injured woman was identified as Mariammal, 55, and she was rushed to the Sivakasi Government Hospital for treatment.

Revenue officials inspected the spot and conducted inquiries. The Vembakottai police have registered a case.

Illegal fireworks

At the time of inspection, the houseowner was not present, officials said, and added that they were yet to probe whether he was involved in the making of illegal fireworks or had rented out the building to someone else for carrying out the manufacturing activity.

Solatium announced

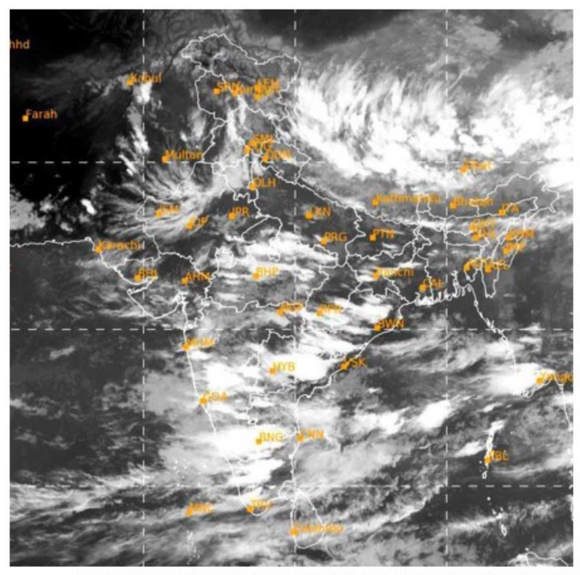
Chief Minister M.K. Stalin condoled the death of the three persons who were killed in the blast.

In a statement, he announced a solatium of ₹4 lakh to the families of each of the deceased and a financial assistance of ₹1 lakh to the injured from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

Mr. Stalin also said he had instructed officials to ensure treatment for Mariammal, who was injured in the blast.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	4	33.2	25.2	Kozhikode	—	33.0	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	35.0	27.1	Kurnool	6	31.7	22.8
Aizawl	0.2	31.3	21.6	Lucknow	9	31.4	25.4
Allahabad	26	32.8	25.7	Madurai	—	34.2	25.3
Bengaluru	—	27.6	21.5	Mangaluru	2	27.4	23.5
Bhopal	—	31.0	24.2	Mumbai	2	31.7	24.9
Bhubaneswar	—	34.6	24.6	Mysuru	—	30.2	21.2
Chandigarh	86	33.1	24.0	New Delhi	79	26.4	23.8
Chennai	—	34.1	26.6	Patna	6.8	32.3	25.8
Coimbatore	—	32.4	23.4	Port Blair	0.4	31.1	24.7
Dehradun	13	29.9	23.8	Puducherry	0.9	31.2	24.7
Gangtok	31	22.2	18.5	Pune	—	31.3	24.6
Goa	0.2	30.4	24.2	Raipur	0.7	33.0	24.3
Guwahati	—	32.0	25.4	Ranchi	4	29.8	21.9
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Shillong	—	24.9	18.0
Hyderabad	—	30.5	22.7	Shimla	17	22.4	16.8
Imphal	—	28.1	22.2	Srinagar	—	32.8	19.0
Jaipur	—	32.6	27.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	30.8	25.1
Kochi	3	28.8	24.0	Tiruchi	29	33.1	23.0
Kohima	15	21.8	18.5	Vijayawada	—	36.0	27.4
Kolkata	0.8	34.0	26.5	Visakhapatnam	17	34.4	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.18	.22	58	43	65	
Bengaluru	.10	.15	36	27	100	
Chennai	.15	.20	98	29	60	
Delhi	.49	.54	26	80	151	
Hyderabad	.14	.22	80	51	77	
Kolkata	.10	.80	23	28	45	
Lucknow	7	.38	64	39	62	
Mumbai	.23	.20	22	43	79	
Pune	.13	.19	.—	74	69	
Visakhapatnam	8	.34	17	47	97	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 221 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'CBI, ED should probe phone tapping'

The Hindu Bureau
KARIMNAGAR

Accusing the BRS and the Congress of shielding each other's "corruption" and "acts of deception", Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has alleged that the two parties have a mutual understanding to defend each other from action against their "wrong-doings" as part of a "protection bond".

He was speaking to presspersons in Karimnagar after participating in Raksha Bandhan festivities on Saturday. Mr. Kumar reiterated his demand for a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into the phone tapping during the previous BRS rule, saying the scope of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) currently probing the case was very limited.

Bandi Sanjay Kumar

The phone tapping was done under the K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) government in violation of the regulations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority, he said. "This is entirely a matter under the jurisdiction of the Centre," he said.

Responding to a query, he said, "We do have trust in the SIT officials. But we have no trust in the Congress government. In cases such as irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, power purchase agreements and the Formula E Race, and other scams during the previous BRS rule, the current Congress dispensation in the State was only delaying probe under the pretext of investigation without taking any action."

He alleged that the phones of several politicians including the present Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy were also tapped by the previous BRS government. "Can the SIT issue a notice to the Chief Minister and summon him for questioning," the Minister asked.

BRS leader hits out at Minister

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Ravula Sridhar Reddy, general secretary of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), has alleged that the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar is indulging in senseless talk just to stay popular and for sensationalism.

The BRS leader said leaders like Mr. Kumar were reducing the BJP to a B-Team of the Congress in Telangana.

Jubilee parade

In rhythm: A procession organised by the Kerala Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to mark its golden jubilee passes through Palayam in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday, International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Telangana to install solar power plants in all government buildings

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister M. Bhatti Vikramarka has asked the District Collectors to go for installation of solar power plants on government buildings and take a proactive role in the implementation of the Indira Solar *Girijana Vikasam* scheme in the Recognition of Forest Rights lands.

Reviewing the two programmes at a meeting held here on Saturday along with Minister for Social Welfare Adluri Laxman Kumar, Principal Secretary (Energy) Naveen Mittal, Chairman and Managing Director of Southern Discom Mohammad Musharraf Faruqui, CMD of the Renewable Energy Development Corporation (REDCO) V. Anila and others, and attended virtually by the District Collectors, Mr. Vikramarka wanted the authorities to send the plans of all Integrated Collectorate complexes, including their parking areas and canteens, to REDCO.

Path to future: A three-lane cycling track with solar-panelled roof at Narsingi in Hyderabad. NAGARA GOPAL

Since all Collectorates in the State have been built with the same design, they were required for installation of solar power plants. However, if any Collectorate had better or different designs, they may be sent to Hyderabad.

The Deputy CM, who holds the portfolio of Energy too, stated that solar power plants would be installed in all government offices across the State – from Gram Panchayat buildings to the Secretariat, to produce power on a large scale. A questionnaire on the details required for setting up such plants would be sent to the District Collectors and the details be sent to the office of the Principal Secretary within a week.

The plants should also be installed at government schools, junior colleges, degree colleges and higher education institution buildings and the details of these buildings be sent to Hyderabad. The District Collectors were also told to send the details of large vacant lands of the Irrigation and Roads & Buildings Departments.

UNDP 'Equator Prize' for Bibi Fatima SHG in Dharwad district

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

A self-help group (SHG) from a small village in Kundgol taluk of Dharwad district has bagged the 'Equator Prize' given by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is also referred to as the Nobel Prize for Biodiversity Conservation.

The Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group from Teertha village in Kundgol taluk is one among the 10 winners of the Equator Prize 2025. The awards were announced on International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and are presented annually to honour nature-based solutions led by indigenous people and local communities that promote sustainable development and ecological resilience.

Women at work at the Bibi Fatima Women's Self-Help Group at Teertha village in Kundgol taluk of Dharwad district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As per UNDP official release on its portal, Bibi Fatima Women's SHG is the sole group from India to win the award, other winners are from Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Peru, and Tanzania.

The award includes a cash prize of $10,000 (approximately ₹8.+5 lakh). This year's award selection was based on the theme "Women and Youth Leadership for Nature-Based Climate Action". Around 700 competitors from 103 countries competed for the prize.

In press release issued here, Sahaja Samruddha, a mentoring organisation for the SHG, said the women's group had made remarkable achievements in areas of implementing eco-friendly farming practices in rainfed lands, managing community seed banks, ensuring food and nutrition security, promoting millet cultivation and running a millet processing unit, to value addition and marketing.

The group had revived millet based mixed cropping systems through natural farming methods in around 30 villages. The SHG was formed in 2018 by just 15 women.

Beginning with the objective of improving the livelihoods of small and marginal farming families through sustainable agriculture, the group introduced millet-based mixed cropping on rainfed farms, promoted climate-resilient farming systems, practised livestock rearing and horticulture and popularised millets at the village level.

With the assistance and support of Sahaja Samruddha, Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad, and CROPS4HD they set up a millet processing unit, which is entirely managed by women. Selco Foundation provided a solar-powered electricity system for the unit.

The Bibi Fatima SHG has also established a community seed bank to distribute these seeds free of cost to interested farmers. This apart the group produces value-added millet products such as rotis and vermicelli.

Through initiatives such as on-farm biodiversity conservation in dryland areas, farmers' markets, and sustainable agriculture practices, the Bibi Fatima SHG has improved the economic status of women from small and marginal farming households. Bibi Fatima SHG is promoting rural, agriculture-based enterprises in collaboration with Devadhanya Farmer Producer Company, the release said.

Snake awareness sessions to be held for students in Kerala

M.P. Praveen
KOCHI

About 1,000 educational institutions in Kerala have been covered under 'SARPA Padam', a snake-related awareness programme launched by the State Forest Department this year.

The idea is to cover all educational institutions ranging from anganwadis to colleges this academic year.

SARPA Padam is an extension of the department's initiative SARPA – Snake Awareness Rescue and Protection App – a digital platform for matters related to snakes and snake bites.

"We have trained 70 educators to conduct the hour-long awareness classes. They include forest department staff and volunteers. We will train additional batches. We have prepared a compact digital content," said Muhammed Anvar, State nodal officer for SARPA.

The content covers the ecological significance of conserving snakes, how to recognise dangerous species, types of venom and anti-venom, how to avoid snake bite, dos and don'ts in the event of bite, etc.

From Page One

Booth agents contest 'no objections' claim by EC

It was not clear whether there is a specific format or form which the BLA is expected to use to raise claims and objections, though the Handbook on Electoral Registration does give BLAs a specific format to seek the addition and deletion of names.

"I have filed a complaint regarding the deletion of 20 names in the Bahadurpur Assembly Segment in Darbhanga with the BLO," Amit Kumar Paswan, a BLA of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist), told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Paswan said the BLO had counter-signed his complaint as a receipt in duplicate, and his party later forwarded it to the District Magistrate. A copy seen by *The Hindu* shows that the complaint was written on plain paper and not in any specified format or with the party letterhead.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Mukund Singh, who is leading a team filing claims and objections after the SIR, said that her party has filed many complaints. She was clueless about why they were not being registered in the ECI data though they have been counter-signed as receipts by the officials.

RJD spokesperson Mritunjay Tiwari, however, accused the EC "spreading confusion", saying that if a voter's name is deleted then there is no provision to challenge it and Form 6 is the only recourse available to get back into the electoral list.

Took down six Pakistani aircraft: Air Force chief

He said there were indications that at least one AEW&C in one hangar and a few F-16s in another were hit during the attack.

"Apart from these [aircraft], there are a large number of UAVs [unmanned aerial vehicles] and drones, some of whose missiles had fallen in our territory. A lot of wreckage has been recovered, which is being studied," the IAF chief said.

He said India's air defence systems had done a wonderful job, especially the Russian S-400 system which he described as a game-changer.

During his talk, Air Chief Marshal Singh shared "before and after" images of the damage caused by the Indian air attack on the Jaish-e-Mohammad headquarters at Bahawalpur and the Lashkar-e-Taiba headquarters at Murdike, both in Pakistan.

He noted that though the IAF had carried out similar attacks during Balakot air strikes in 2019, it could not get images from inside the targeted buildings. "In Balakot, we could not get anything from inside and it became a big issue trying to tell our own people... what we were able to achieve" he said.

Pak. denies statement

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said no aircraft of the military was hit or destroyed by Indian armed forces during the recent conflict.

(With inputs from PTI)

Two soldiers killed on Day 9 of Kulgam strike

Paying tributes to the soldiers, the Army said: "Their courage and dedication will forever inspire us. The Army expresses deepest condolences and stands in solidarity with the bereaved families."

The Army said the operation is continuing in the Akhal jungles. Fresh reinforcements were sent to the area. Drones and helicopters were also deployed to locate the terrorists. The encounter site is deep in the forest area..

One terrorist, believed to be of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), was killed on August 1in a fierce gunfight at Devsar's Akhal area. The Kulgam operation is one of the longest operations reported from the Kashmir Valley in recent years.

'Untouchability wall' brought down in T.N.

The group began dismantling the wall in the afternoon while press and media persons were restricted from taking pictures of the operation.

Members of the same intermediate caste had reportedly blocked attempts by the Arunthathiyars to build a stage for organising programmes during the annual Sri Muthumariamman Temple festival, and a public toilet on *poramboke* land.

The Revenue Department had served a notice a few days ago on the "*Kothukarar*", leader of the intermediate caste group, to remove the wall within 15 days, citing that the land on which the wall had been raised was a government *poramboke* land. Moreover, no permission had been obtained to construct the wall. However, the community representatives contented that the wall was not meant to deny access to the SC people but to prevent the anti-social activities of 'outsiders'.

The Revenue Department served one more notice on Friday night directing the caste Hindus to remove the wall by 11 a.m. on Saturday. Strongly opposing the action, a large number of them staged a sit-in at the Collector's office that night. They returned to their settlement after revenue officials made it clear that the wall would be demolished on Saturday.

M. Mohamed Bysal, Revenue Divisional Officer, Karur, told *The Hindu* that the wall had been completely brought down and its foundation would be removed by Sunday afternoon.

Seven dead as wall collapses on Delhi shanties amid heavy rain

It fell on dwellings of scrap collectors; all the victims hail from West Bengal, people say; criticising Delhi govt., AAP leader says CM and Ministers are nowhere to be seen; Delhi Police and Fire Services along with NDRF undertake rescue efforts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Seven people were killed and one was injured after a wall collapsed at Jaitpur in southeast Delhi on Saturday morning after incessant rain lashed the capital overnight. The wall that was abutting an old temple collapsed onto shanties where scrap dealers live.

The Delhi Police said its control room received a call at 9.13 a.m. regarding a wall collapse with inputs that four or five people were trapped.

"Rescue operations were undertaken immediately by the Delhi Police, the Delhi Fire Services and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) by removing the debris and looking for survivors. Eight persons were rescued and rushed to the AIIMS Trauma Centre and Safdarjung Hospital," a police officer said,

However, seven of them - three men, two women and two minor girls - died during treatment.

One injured person, identified as Hasibul, 27, hailing from Murshidabad district of West Bengal, is under treatment, the police said. It added that a thorough search was carried out but no other persons were found under the debris.

Capital plight: The remains of the wall that collapsed at Jaitpur in southeast Delhi on Saturday after heavy overnight rain. Any negligence involved will be investigated, the police say. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Local people said the victims were migrant workers from West Bengal who made a living as ragpickers.

"While the cause of the collapse seems to be the heavy overnight rain, we will look into the structural condition of the wall, ownership, and any negligence involved. Statements of witnesses and survivors will be recorded," a police officer said.

An FIR is being registered under appropriate provisions of law, and investigation will be taken up, the officer added.

Chaos everywhere: AAP

The Opposition Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi chief, Saurabh Bharadwaj, hit out at the Delhi government. "Seven people died on Raksha Bandhan, and there is chaos everywhere, but you will not see any Minister or the Chief Minister on the ground. All the Ministers, the Chief Minister, and the Lieutenant-Governor are enjoying themselves, leaving Delhi at the mercy of God," Mr. Bharadwaj alleged.

Heavy rain lashed the capital from 10.30 p.m. on Friday till Saturday evening.

The Safdarjung weather station, which provides the official weather reading of the capital, recorded 78.8 mm of rainfall in the 24-hour period leading up to 8.30 a.m. on Saturday, and 26 mm of rainfall during the rest of the day.

Weather warning

The weather department had issued a "red alert" for the capital, warning of heavy rain and thunderstorms asking people to "take action". A red alert is the highest of the four colour code warnings issued by the weather department.

A wall at an underground site of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation near Vasant Kunj also collapsed, causing a portion of the Mahipalpur-Mehrauli Road, from Fortis Hospital towards Mahipalpur, to cave in.

No one was injured in the incident that occurred at the under-construction site near D-6, Vasant Kunj, under the Masoodpur Flyover.

Waterlogging was reported from several parts of the city, including Connaught Place, Dhaula Kuan and Kalkaji.

Trump-Putin meet can help end Ukraine conflict: MEA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India on Saturday welcomed the summit between the United States and Russia to be held in Alaska on August 15. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) described the summit, which comes after more than three years of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, as a move that holds the "promise" of ending the conflict. The meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin was announced by Mr. Trump earlier on Saturday.

"This meeting holds the promise of bringing to an end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and opening up the prospects for peace. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said on several occasions, 'This is not an era of war.' India, therefore, endorses the upcoming summit meeting and stands ready to support these efforts," said MEA official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

On Friday, Mr. Modi had held a telephonic conversation with Mr. Putin, after which he said the conversation was "very good and detailed" and thanked Mr. Putin for sharing "the latest development on Ukraine".

Govt. deploys 4 choppers; 277 more rescued from disaster-hit Uttarkashi

Press Trust of India
UTTARKASHI

Four helicopters were pressed into service to airlift people stranded in Uttarkashi following flash floods and landslides earlier this week which claimed multiple lives and left behind a trail of destruction.

On the fifth day of rescue operations on Saturday, 170 people were airlifted to the ITBP's Matli helipad and 107 to the airstrip at Chinyalisaur, the Uttarakhand Police said.

According to official data, more than 1,000 people have been evacuated so far from parts of the disaster-hit Dharali area which are still cut off following mudslide and flash floods on Tuesday.

The district administration has confirmed four deaths and 49 people missing.

Winged help: Ration and other relief material being sent to disaster-affected areas from the Matli helipad of the ITBP in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand on Saturday. PTI

Four helicopters of the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Authority are making sorties to rescue people who have taken shelter in various locations of the district.

The Indian Air Force's Chinook helicopter transporting a generator set to the relief camp took off from the Jollygrant airport on Saturday morning. Power supply to Dharali and nearby areas was badly hit by the flash floods.

A Bailey bridge is being constructed at Limchigad near Gangnani on a war footing to improve road connectivity to the affected areas in the next 24 hours.

The Gangotri highway is either blocked or breached at several points hampering efforts to transport advanced equipment required in search efforts.

R.G. Kar case: victim's parents allege police assault during march

Shiv Sahay Singh
Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

Parents of the doctor who was raped and killed at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata in West Bengal a year ago alleged that the police assaulted them during a march to Nabanna, the State Secretariat, on Saturday.

The father and mother said they had reached Park Street area in the city by evading the police at multiple points. They were accompanied by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders.

Near Park Street, the police resorted to baton-charge to disperse the crowd.

The mother said that police personnel hit her with baton and she suffered injuries on her hand. "Police assaulted me. They also broke my bangles," she said.

A swelling on her forehead could be seen but it was not clear whether it was due to use of force by the police. The father also said that he was attacked by the police. The two were admitted to a private hospital in the city.

The police, however, denied the allegation. "The police did not do anything to the parents. But their allegations will be duly investigated," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Port) Harikrishna Pai said.

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari and other BJP leaders participated in the protest march. Mr. Adhikari visited the hospital to meet the doctor's parents. The BJP leader said that about 100 people sustained injuries during the protest and 18 had to be hospitalised.

Judicial discipline or overreach? Supreme Court's rebuke of a HC judge raises questions

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's recent chastisement of an Allahabad High Court judge for an "absurd" order raises two questions: can the top court act as an "elder brother" to High Courts and if "institutional concerns affecting rule of law" give the top court authority to intervene in the exclusive "master of roster" powers of the Chief Justice of a State High Court?

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan found an order by the High Court judge Justice Prashant Kumar so "erroneous" that it directed the Chief Justice of the High Court, Arun Bhansali, to pair him with a "seasoned senior judge" in a Division Bench. The Supreme Court further directed that Justice Kumar should not be assigned a criminal roster till he demitted office.

The two directions, part of an August 4 order, were objected to by the Allahabad High Court lawyers, who wrote to the Chief Justice.

Justice Pardiwala's Bench modified the August 4 order on Friday after receiving a letter from Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai to reconsider the two directions.

The six-page order by the Supreme Court Bench said it had never meant, by passing the now deleted directions, to challenge the power of Chief Justice Bhansali as "master of roster" of his High Court.

"We fully acknowledge that the Chief Justice of a High Court is the master of the roster. Our directions are absolutely not interfering with the administrative power of the Chief Justice of the High Court. When matters raise institutional concerns affecting the rule of law, this court may be compelled to step in and take corrective steps," the Supreme Court order read.

The August 8 order explained that when the "dignity of the institution is imperiled, it becomes the constitutional responsibility of this court (Supreme Court) to intervene".

Exclusive authority

However, the Supreme Court's own judgment in 2004 in the case of *Tirupati Balaji Developers* show that though the Supreme Court is "elder brother" to High Courts in matters of administration of justice, the top court does not have "any power of superintendence" over the High Courts.

Besides, repeated judgments have undisputedly confirmed the exclusive authority of a High Court Chief Justice to master his court's roster.

The top court had found the "master of roster" dictum essential to maintain judicial discipline and decorum, especially after four senior top court judges convened an unprecedented press conference in January 2018, insinuating selective allocation of "sensitive" cases by the then Chief Justice of India.

A Full Bench of the Madras High Court in *Mayavaram Financial Corporation Ltd* case of 1991 had opined that the Chief Justice possessed the "inherent power" to allocate the judicial business of the High court.

J&K Police searches 26 houses linked to terror cells

Press Trust of India
JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday conducted searches at 26 houses, including that of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Mohammad Amin Bhat. alias Jehangir Sarooori, in a massive clampdown on the terror ecosystem in Kishtwar district, officials said.

The raids targeted homes of terrorists operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and smuggling arms and ammunition from across the border, they said.

The raids came a day after similar searches were conducted at 15 locations in Doda district.

EC delists 334 registered unrecognised parties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday said it had delisted 334 registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs).

If a party does not contest elections continuously for six years, it will be taken off the list of registered parties, the guidelines for the registration of political parties say. In accordance with Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, parties have to provide details at the time of registration, including the name of the party, its address, and the names of office-bearers, with any change communicated to the EC without delay.

The EC had, in June, directed the Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) to conduct verification enquiries for 345 RUPPs on their compliance with the above rules. The EC, after considering all the facts and the recommendations of the CEOs, has de-listed 334 RUPPs. "The remaining cases have been referred back to the CEOs for reverification," an official statement by the EC said.

No name will be deleted without notice, says EC

The poll body tells the Supreme Court that it will adhere to the principles of natural justice by giving voters facing deletion from Bihar's draft poll rolls 'reasonable opportunity of being heard'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) assured the Supreme Court on Saturday that deletion of voters' names on the Bihar draft electoral roll, published on August 1 as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, would be done only after issuing prior notice indicating the grounds for the action.

The EC was responding to an application filed by the Association for Democratic Reforms, represented by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi, in court to direct the poll body to provide individual details of the approximately 65 lakh names deleted from the draft electoral roll. The affidavit did not directly address this point raised by the NGO.

Instead, the commission said its policy would adhere to the principles of natural justice by giving voters facing deletion a "reasonable opportunity of being heard and furnishing relevant documents". The subsequent order by the competent authority would be "a reasoned and speaking" one.

Field visits: Repeated house visits were made by the Booth-Level Officers to collect enumeration forms. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

"These safeguards are further reinforced by a robust two-tier appeal mechanism prescribed under the relevant rules, thereby ensuring that every elector has adequate recourse against any adverse action," the EC said in an additional affidavit.

Booth-level lists have been provided to political parties, the EC said. "To facilitate thorough scrutiny of the draft roll from August 1 to September 1, printed and digital copies of draft rolls have been made available to political parties, and online facility for the public at large," the affidavit said.

The poll body said 2.5 lakh volunteers, mostly Bihar government officials, have been deployed to assist eligible voters obtain requisite documents from the various State departments to avoid exclusion from the final electoral roll.

"Accordingly, even in cases in which any vulnerable elector does not presently possess any document, he/she would be facilitated in the process of obtaining such documents. The Commission is taking every possible step to ensure that eligible elector is not excluded from the electoral roll," the affidavit said.

Repeated house visits were made by the 77,895 Booth-Level Officers to collect enumeration forms to ensure no voter was left behind in Bihar. Provisions were made for any of the over 1.6 lakh booth-level agents appointed by "all major political parties", to submit up to 50 enumeration forms in a day, the EC said.

After IAF claims, Congress questions PM on sudden halt to Operation Sindoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh revealed on Saturday that the Indian Air Force (IAF) had shot down five Pakistani fighter jets and a large aircraft during Operation Sindoor, the Congress asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi why India's military action against Pakistan was "suddenly stopped" and under whose "pressure".

"In view of the new revelations made by the Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh today, it becomes all the more shocking why the PM suddenly stopped Operation Sindoor on the evening of May 10th," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. "Where did the pressure on the PM come from and why did he capitulate so very soon?" he added.

India launched the operation against a few terror bases in Pakistan on May 7 in retaliation for the Pahalagam terror attack on April 22.

Jairam Ramesh

After three days of intense conflict, both countries reached an understanding on May 10 to end the hostilities. Though U.S. President Donald Trump claimed that he helped broker the ceasefire, the Centre has consistently denied it.

Mr. Ramesh's colleague, Pawan Khera, echoed him and said the party's questions to Prime Minister Narendra Modi acquire greater urgency in the wake of the latest revelations by the IAF chief.

"When we have some such strong armed forces, why did you suddenly stop Operation Sindoor and under whose pressure? U.S. President Donald Trump sent out the first tweet [X post] on the ceasefire. Why was there this pressure, and what did we get from this?" Mr. Khera asked, adding that the details of the losses sustained by Pakistan should have been shared in Parliament during the Operation Sindoor debate.

Parliament debate

During the recent Parliament debate, several Congress MPs, including Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, had questioned the government for abruptly going in for a ceasefire when the Indian armed forces were at an advantageous position.

Two people promised a win in 2024 Maharashtra polls; we ignored them: Sharad Pawar

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar or SP) chief, Sharad Pawar, on Saturday claimed that two individuals had met him and Rahul Gandhi before the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly election, promising victory to the Opposition with a win of 160 of the 288 constituencies.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis criticised Mr. Pawar, alleging that the latter's timing had been influenced by his (Mr. Pawar's) meeting with Mr. Gandhi.

"Two people approached me to 'guarantee' victory [in the Assembly election]. I took them to meet Mr. Gandhi. After a discussion, we decided not to go that way," Mr. Pawar said. It was surprising, he added, "But I had no doubts about the Election Commission (EC), so I ignored them."

Sharad Pawar

Speaking to pressperson in Nagpur, Mr. Pawar hailed Mr. Gandhi's presentation, which alleged discrepancies in the Maharashtra voters' list, and criticised the EC for seeking an affidavit from Mr. Gandhi.

The NCP(SP) leader said the Congress leader had already taken oath in Parliament; filing a separate affidavit was not required. "His allegations should be investigated. Besides, why do BJP leaders keep coming out with statements when we are asking the EC for answers?" Mr. Pawar said.

Mr. Fadnavis termed Mr. Gandhi's claims as lies.

"It is a quasi-judicial matter. If an oath affidavit is required, and if you aren't giving that, it means you are lying, which is punishable," Mr. Fadnavis said.

Rahul Gandhi should submit declaration or apologise, says EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday again asked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to submit under oath the allegations made by him on voter roll manipulation in a Karnataka Assembly constituency.

Either Mr. Gandhi should give a declaration/oath, or apologise to the country, sources in the EC said.

Mr. Gandhi had claimed that 1,00,250 "fake votes" were created in the Mahadevapura Assembly seat under the Bangalore Central Lok Sabha constituency in Karnataka, in order to ensure a win for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Following this, the Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer had issued a letter to the Congress leader, asking him to submit evidence under oath under Rule 20 (3) (b) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

The Rule says: "The registration officer shall hold a summary inquiry into every claim or objection in respect of which notice has been given under Rule 19 and shall record his decision thereon."

"The registration officer may in his discretion (a) require any claimant, objector or person objected to, to appear in person before him; (b) require that the evidence tendered by any person shall be given on oath and administer an oath for the purpose," it says.

BJP flays Rahul Gandhi for not submitting written proof on 'vote theft' claim

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi must resign on "moral grounds" from the membership of the Lok Sabha if he did not have faith in the Election Commission (EC), and flayed him for not submitting a written declaration on his "vote theft" claim.

BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia asked Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and party MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to resign as members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha, respectively, if they did not have faith in the polls.

"You [Rahul Gandhi] make baseless allegations before the media and then refuse to give proof and a written declaration when the constitutional body asks for it," Mr. Bhatia said.

Gaurav Bhatia

He accused the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha of being "immature" and starting a war against constitutional institutions by threatening EC officials.

Reading out excerpts of a Supreme Court judgment, the BJP spokesperson said the court had observed that there was no doubt about the bona fides of the EC and that it was a matter of record that the poll body had built a reputation as an impartial body over the years.

"Rahul Gandhi, if you don't trust the EC and the observations made by the Supreme Court, do one thing: first, you resign. Priyanka Gandhi, you also resign. Sonia Gandhi, you also resign at least on moral grounds because you are raising questions on the same Election Commission," Mr. Bhatia said.

He demanded that the Chief Ministers of the Congress-ruled Karnataka, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh resign, for their top leaders had no faith in the EC. "Whatever suits you, you accept. Whatever is inconvenient, you reject and cast aspersions on the Election Commission. This will not work," Mr. Bhatia said.

Targeted development, internal rifts, leadership crisis drive Maoist decline

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Once considered a formidable internal security threat, Maoist insurgency has shrunk from controlling the vast Red Corridor to just 18 districts of the country. The underlying factors are not only the targeted development schemes and sustained counterinsurgency operations, but also internal rifts, ideological rigidity, leadership crises, and alienation of support base, according to security experts and surrendered members of the outfit.

At its peak in the late 2000s, the Red Corridor spanned nearly 180 districts. However, official statistics show the scale of decline: the incidents of Left-Wing Extremism dropped by more than 50% between 2004-14 and 2014-23, with fatalities falling by nearly 70%. Naxal-related violence had peaked at 1,936 incidents in 2010, but plummeted to 374 by 2024, while deaths dropped from 1,005 to 150.

While the reported internal rifts have been crucial, operations by security forces have accelerated the collapse of the outfit. PTI

A close examination of Dandakaranya by security experts – a forested expanse covering parts of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra that was treated by Maoists as their de facto capital for over two decades - indicated some possible reasons behind their waning influence. As disclosed by several surrendered Naxals, the outfit prioritised military preparedness and ideological indoctrination over any tangible development and the very communities it claimed to be championing suffered.

In the recent past, the outfit has reportedly been facing a leadership crisis. The resignation of Muppala Lakshmana Rao, known as Ganapathy, in 2018 is considered to be the turning point. He was succeeded by Basava Raju who leaned on military offensives rather than "political outreach and civil engagement", alienating the support base. In May 2025, he was among the Naxals gunned down by security forces in the Maad region of Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur. The CPI (Maoist) said that Raju's death was a result of betrayal from within.

While the reported internal rifts have been crucial, operations by security forces have accelerated the collapse of the outfit. Security agencies have reasons to believe that the outfit's decision-making body, Politburo, has now just four active members.

Ideologically, the outfit is said to be losing its relevance with the younger peasants and tribals increasingly focused on education, employment, and integration into mainstream society.

Several surrendered members have advocated shunning of violence. Ginugu Narsimha Reddy, a former Central Committee member who surrendered in 2017, has spoken about finding peaceful solutions. He has also highlighted differences within Maoist groups. The internal disputes are said to be compounded with the outfit being isolated politically.

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Vacancy Notification No. 01/2025
Applications invited for temporary positons:
System Analyst (1 post) - Typist (Telugu) (1 post)
Graphic Designer (1 post) - JPF (3 posts)
For details visit:
www.ncert.nic.in and www.riemysore.ac.in
Officer on Special duty (OSD)

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त-झालावाड़
कमरा नं.- 158, भूतल (सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग परिसर), मिनी सचिवालय, झालावाड़
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NIB No. PWD2526A1719
इस कार्यालय पत्र क्रमांक 340 दिनांक 02.07.2025 द्वारा जारी/ प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या 04/2025–26 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है :—

क्र.सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 10.7.2025 से 30.7.2025 सायं 6 बजे तक।	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 10.7.2025 से 20.8.2025 सायं 6 बजे तक।
2	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म जमा कराने की तारीख 10.7.2025 से 30.7.2025 सायं 6 बजे तक।	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म जमा कराने की तारीख 10.7.2025 से 20.8.2025 सायं 6 बजे तक।
3	निविदा खोलने की तिथि 01.08.2025 अपराह्न 3 बजे।	निविदा खोलने की तिथि 22.08.2025 अपराह्न 3 बजे।
4	धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों), दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01, RISL शुल्क बजट मद 8658–00–102–(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग), ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 30.07.2025 (बुधवार) सांय 06:00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशासी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड के नाम जमा कराई जानी है। तथा निविदा शुल्क, बिड सिक्योरिटी (बोली प्रतिभूति), RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) शपथ-पत्र राशि रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा, एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।	धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों), दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01, RISL शुल्क बजट मद 8658–00–102–(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग), ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 20.08.2025 (बुधवार) सांय 06:00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशासी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड के नाम जमा कराई जानी है। तथा निविदा शुल्क, बिड सिक्योरिटी (बोली प्रतिभूति), RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) शपथ-पत्र राशि रू. 1000/- तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा, एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।

S.N.	UBN No.	S.N.	UBN No.
1	PWD2526WSOB06138	2	PWD2526WSOB06139

(मुकेश चन्द मीना)
अधीक्षण अभियंता
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग,
वृत्त झालावाड़
DIPR/C/11080/25

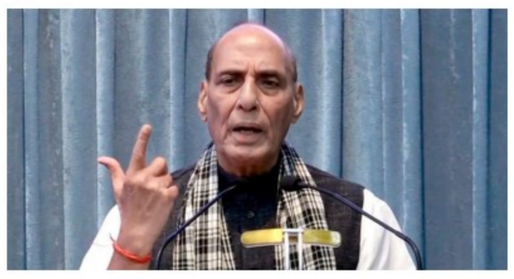
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124**
Brief E- TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-I
No: e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/CON/258706 - (I) Dt: 08.08.2025
Refer to Tender No CMG/C/CON/258706 dated 10.07.2025 Name of work: **"Construction of D Type (50 Nos) & E type (32Nos) Quarters at Swarnamukhi Nagar (SMN) ISRO/ DOS Housing Colony, Sullurpeta - Phase-II (Civil, PH, Electrical & Mechanical (Lift) works in EPC Mode-III)"** (Est. cost Rs. 6958 Lakhs).
Sale period extended up to 18.08.2025
Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि., संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर मु. बाँसवाड़ा
क्रमांक: डी- 295 दिनांक : 30/7/25
निविदा संशोधन-04
निविदा सूचना संख्या 04 / 2025-26
NIB Code: PWD2526A0789
इस कार्यालय के क्रमांक 121 दिनांक 23.05.2025, एवं डी-191 दिनांक 16.06.2025, डी-222 दिनांक 26.06.2025, डी-253 दिनांक 11.07.2025 द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या - 04/2025-26 के क्रम संख्या 01 से 15 पर अंकित कार्यों की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

विवरण	पूर्व में दिनांक	संशोधित दिनांक
ऑनलाइन निविदा आवेदन /डाउनलोड करने की दिनांक	बुधवार, 28 मई 2025 प्रातः 9:30 से सोमवार, 04 अगस्त 2025 सायं 6:00 बजे	सोमवार, 04 अगस्त 2025 प्रातः 9:30 से सोमवार, 25 अगस्त सायं 6.00 बजे
ऑनलाइन निविदा जमा कराने की दिनांक	बुधवार, 28 मई 2025 प्रातः 9:30 से सोमवार, 04 अगस्त 2025 सायं 6:00 बजे	सोमवार, 04 अगस्त 2025 प्रातः 9:30 से सोमवार, 25 अगस्त सायं 6.00 बजे
प्रि-बिड मीटिंग दिनांक, समय व स्थान	गुरुवार, 31 जुलाई 2025, प्रातः 11:00 बजे	मंगलवार, 12 अगस्त 2025, प्रातः 11.00 बजे अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर मु. बाँसवाड़ा में।
ऑनलाइन निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	मंगलवार, 05 अगस्त 2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे।	मंगलवार, 26 अगस्त 2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे।

UBN:- PWD2526WLOB02472, WLOB02473, WLOB02474, WLOB02475, WSOB02476, WLOB02477, WSOB02478, WSOB02479, WLOB02480, WSOB02481, WSOB02482, WSOB02484, WSOB02485, WSOB02486, WSOB02487.
निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।
(बी.एल. भेणिया)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर
मुख्यालय बाँसवाड़ा
DIPR/C/11084/2025

INBRIEF



'India's defence production has reached an all-time high'

India's annual defence production has reached an all-time high of ₹1,50,590 crore in 2024-25, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Saturday. This marks a growth of around 18% over the previous fiscal's total of ₹1.27 lakh crore. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's defence production has hit a record high, Mr. Singh said. "These numbers indicate a robust 18% growth over the previous fiscal's output of ₹1.27 lakh crore, and a staggering 90% increase since 2019-20, when the figure was ₹79,071 crore," he added. "This upward trajectory is a clear indicator of India's strengthening defence industrial base," he said. PTI

No 'optional' fee for lawyer enrolment, says top court

The State Bar Councils or the Bar Council of India cannot collect any "optional" fee other than the statutory charge from law graduates enrolling as lawyers, the Supreme Court has said, while asking the Karnataka State Bar Council to stop collecting any such amount. A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan passed the direction on a contempt plea filed by K.L.J.A. Kiran Babu, alleging that directions issued by the court in July last year on not charging exorbitant fees for enrolling law graduates by State Bar councils, especially the Karnataka State Bar Council, are not being complied with in letter and spirit. PTI

Women's forum urges Assam to drop plan to arm civilians

The Nari Nagarik Manch, an apolitical forum of women in Assam, has urged the State government to revoke its decision to grant arms licences to "indigenous people in sensitive areas". The collective warned that the move, apparently intended to empower communities feeling threatened by a perceived demographic invasion, would escalate tensions in Assam after years of armed extremism and violence. At a meeting of the forum held in Guwahati on Saturday, about 30 women from different walks of life unanimously resolved to launch a sustained campaign against the May 28 State Cabinet decision on issuing arms licences.

Chhattisgarh to launch a new stray cattle protection scheme

The Chhattisgarh government will soon launch a new cattle protection scheme, the *Gaudham Yojana*, with a "special focus on curbing illegal trafficking and ensuring safety of stray cattle". "The Livestock Development Department has designed this scheme keeping in mind the safety of cattle seized during illegal transportation or smuggling, as well as stray cattle...Each *Gaudham* will be able to house a maximum of 200 cattle, depending on capacity," a government statement said. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said the scheme would ensure livestock safety while providing a regular source of income to cowherds and cattle attendants.

SUDOKU

	2			3		6		
		4	1				3	8
1	5		4					
					3	7		
2		7				3		5
		6	2					
					5		1	7
3	1				8	4		
		2		9			5	

No.SS6607 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	6	7	9	1	3	4	5
1	9	4	3	8	5	7	2	6
7	3	5	6	4	2	8	9	1
6	7	2	9	1	4	5	3	8
3	8	9	5	2	7	6	1	4
5	4	1	8	3	6	9	7	2
9	1	8	4	5	3	2	6	7
4	5	7	2	6	9	1	8	3
2	6	3	1	7	8	4	5	9

Halfway into talks for global plastics treaty, consensus remains elusive

Progress is insufficient, says Chairman of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee; India expresses support for oil majors Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia, China, and Bahrain; it says that negotiations must be limited to plastic pollution and not production, which can affect right of development

Jacob Koshy
GENEVA

Global concern: A plenary session of the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution in Geneva on Saturday. AP

Halfway through what is intended to be the final round of the Plastics Treaty Negotiations, where around 180 countries are attempting an agreement to address plastic pollution, there has been little headway on forging a consensus.

In fact, countries are not even agreed on the road map of evolving such a consensus. There are those who say that without some form of voting mechanism that accounts for the views of a majority, no progress is possible. On the other hand are those – primarily those who are reluctant to sign up to mandates on capping plastic production – who are insistent that the principle of one vote per country be upheld.

On Saturday, five days into a process that is officially expected to conclude on August 14, Luis Vayas Valdivieso, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) 5.2, said, "The progress that we have made is not sufficient. We have had two-and-a-half years of opportunities for delegations to make proposals and express their views... There is no more time to continue having positions already stated."

The expected outcome from the negotiations is a legal text that will set out a framework agreement under which countries can convene annually – similar to the climate conferences – to take concrete action, though incrementally, to address all aspects of plastic, including how it is produced and targets to reduce or even eliminate its use.

Currently, the draft version of this text consist of 32 Articles, every line of which must be agreed to by all countries. All countries who disagree with even a single line put forth their own views in 'brackets'. At the beginning of the INC 5.2, on August 4, there were about 300 brackets and, as of Saturday, the number had ballooned to 1,500 brackets. To streamline discussions, there are four 'contact groups' among whom these Articles are divided and the leaders of each contact group – who are also representatives of different countries – are expected to reduce the number of brackets to bring out a clean text.

While no group has reported success, the most divisive are those that deal with the 'supply' aspects of plastic. On Saturday, India voiced its opposition to text (Article 6) that seeks to place limits on plastic-polymer production. "We need to ensure that we discuss on addressing plastic pollution only... our scope should be restricted to plastic pollution only. Separate Articles that deal with plastic polymer production has larger implications with respect to the right of development of member states. Such approaches should be avoided. Similarly phase-out dates (for plastic) should be avoided," Vir Vikram Yadav, who is part of the Indian delegation and Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, said, addressing the Chair.

Mr. Yadav added that India supported Kuwait and a coalition of 'Like Minded Countries' which include Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia, China, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Cuba. These countries generally oppose measures that would restrict the production of plastics or certain chemicals used in their manufacture.

Independent observers expressed disappointment at the pace of negotiations. "At the halfway mark we have made no real progress. Article 6 on production has not even had a first reading, much less negotiated. Chemicals of Concern, which is part of Article 3 continues to be bracketed. Without effective measures in these two crucial Articles, the curbing of plastic pollution across the full life cycle as defined in Resolution 5/14 will not be accomplished. A treaty without these provisions will only result in plastic proliferation," said Swathi Seshadri, petrochemicals specialist, South Asia, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

NMR ID registration voluntary, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a relief to doctors across the country protesting against the cumbersome registration process with the National Medical Register (NMR), Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel informed the Lok Sabha recently that application for issuance of an NMR Identification (ID) is voluntary.

She was responding to a question from Aditya Yadav on whether the government had taken cognisance of the fact that, as of May 1, 2025, less than 1% of doctors had registered with the NMR eight months after its launch.

The NMR is a centralised database of registered medical practitioners in modern medicine, maintained by the National Medical Commission (NMC).

It contains information on each practitioner, including qualification, area of specialisation (in process), registration status, and date of registration, and assigns a unique identification number called the NMR ID.

Women, kin of deceased donors to get priority in organ transplant, says govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sending a message: Union Minister J.P. Nadda and others at the 15th Indian Organ Donation Day in New Delhi last week. ANI

To address gender imbalance among organ transplant recipients and encourage donations, the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) has issued a 10-point advisory that gives priority to women patients and relatives of deceased donors awaiting organ transplants.

In a recent letter to the States and Union Territories, Anil Kumar, Director of NOTTO, said the objective was to make provisions for "additional points in the allocation criteria" for women patients on the waiting list to "address gender disparity".

According to the Health Ministry, the existing allocation criteria for major organs and tissues – kidney, heart, liver, lungs, heart and cornea – have been prescribed by NOTTO for transparency and equity in the allocation system, giving preference to those whose requirement is more.

The allocation criteria give priority according to the duration of the disease, period on waiting list, severity of illness, children, living donor now requiring transplant, and matching parameters such as blood group, age, and size for better a outcome.

NOTTO maintains a digital national registry of organ recipients and donors. Patients needing transplant can register through their hospital in the national registry.

Recently, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said that since the launch of the Aadhaar-based NOTTO online pledge website in 2023, more than 3.3 lakh citizens had pledged to donate their organs, marking a historic moment in public participation. "India achieved a milestone of performing over 18,900 organ transplants in 2024, the highest ever recorded in a single year, a significant leap from fewer than 5,000 transplants in 2013," he had said.

In his latest communication, Dr. Kumar noted that all transplant hospitals and centres will have to mandatorily submit data of each donor and recipient of organs or tissues to a national registry maintained by NOTTO. Non-compliance would likely lead to legal action against such hospitals.

Electricity is a public good and material resource, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The court questions if the Electricity Regulatory Commissions have functional autonomy

The Supreme Court has expressed a lack of confidence on whether Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERCs) are living up to the independence and autonomy afforded to them under the law.

The ERCs have the exclusive authority of tariff determination, and they play a pivotal role in the promotion of competition and ensuring reliable power supply.

The court said electricity was a "public good" and a "material resource", and was especially vulnerable to "undue political posturing". The ERCs were meant to serve as a bastion under the Electricity Act of 2003 to ensure that electricity was sold and distributed for the common good, unruffled by the politics of the day, and uninfluenced by the market forces of demand and supply.

In an 82-page judgment, a Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Sandeep Mehta has, however, questioned the very "functional autonomy" of the ERCs, while drawing attention to the "manage and manoeuvre" tactics employed to arrive at tariffs by creating regulatory assets "over and above all permissible limits" prescribed by the electricity laws.

A regulatory asset is adopted as a measure by the commissions when the gap between the revenue required by a power distribution company to meet its costs and expenditure, and the actual revenue realised through immediate tariff, is so high that it would not only prejudice the consumer but lead to what is called a "tariff shock".

The top court ordered that regulatory assets must not exceed the reasonable percentage as envisaged in the Electricity Rules. They must be liquidated in a maximum of seven years from April 1, 2024, and those created in future must be liquidated in three years from April 1, 2024.

In Gurez Valley, a lone man is archiving the Dard-Shin story

Abhinay Lakshman
DAWAR, GUREZ

Shining a light: Archivist Basheer Ahmad Teroo, and the jewellery used by the Dard-Shin people in his collection. ABHINAY LAKSHMAN

The Dard-Shin tribe, which once ruled large parts of Kashmir in the 16th century and is now nestled in the Gurez valley, has found an archivist in Basheer Ahmad Teroo.

For the past three years, Mr. Teroo, 48, has been travelling and collecting vestiges of his community's culture – items that he has begun storing and displaying at his home in Dawar.

In 2022, Mr. Teroo said, his mother had gifted him 75 items - jewellery, kitchen utensils, footwear, clothing and so on. "She said it was for safekeeping. These were things that reminded her of our community and how we have lived. I thought why not do something with it," he recalled.

Mr. Teroo began displaying the items whenever he would visit the Dard-Shin people across the Gurez region, including Tulail, where the community is concentrated. In three years, he amassed 457 antique items - ranging from a woman's 20-year-old wedding *pheran* to a 107-year-old wooden horse saddle – all donated or sold by people of the community.

"I put out photos on Facebook, and my visits also help. So, people reach out to me themselves. Sometimes, they just want to leave a piece that represents their community's culture in safekeeping, just like my mother did. There are hundreds of items that are currently in the pipeline, and I have also started the work of logging and cataloguing them," he told *The Hindu* while showing around his small home which also doubles up as the Dard-Shin Museum.

While one room of the museum houses clothing and jewellery, the other has daily household and farm items such as horse saddles and footwear made of grass. There is a collection of Shina literature and poetry written by eminent Dard-Shin writers.

The Dard-Shin is classified as a Scheduled Tribe by the Union government and the community traces its origins to Gilgit.

Currently, the community in India is spread over the regions of Gurez, Tulail, and Drass. The 2011 Census recorded a total of 48,440 Dard-Shin people, for whom the principal means of sustenance are farming and raising livestock, and more recently, tourism.

A year after Mr. Teroo started his museum, the Indian Army built the Shina Culture Centre in Dawar, reconstructing articles of Dard-Shin culture as observed by experts from Mr. Teroo's collection.

The centre sits on the banks of Kishanganga river.

"The items in the museum are good and accurate but, they were built for display. The items in my collection are everyday items that were used and have memories attached to them," he said.

INBRIEF

India, Oman FTA likely to be announced soon: Official

The conclusion and signing of the proposed free trade agreement between India and Oman is expected to be announced soon, an official has said. The trade pact text is being translated into Arabic in Oman. After that, cabinets of both countries will approve the pact. "Both countries have, in principle, decided to announce the conclusion and signing together," the official added. Talks for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement began in Nov. 2023. PTI

Govt. may roll out ₹2,250 cr. export promotion mission

The government is expected to soon announce support measures under the proposed ₹2,250 crore export promotion mission to help insulate industry from global trade uncertainties arising from Trump tariffs, an official said. The mission may include components, such as easy credit schemes for MSME and e-commerce exporters, facilitation of overseas warehousing, and global branding initiatives to tap emerging export opportunities. PTI

Prestige acquires 102 acres to build homes worth ₹20,000 cr.

Realty firm Prestige Estates Projects Ltd. has acquired 102 acres of land in the April-June quarter to build housing projects, with a potential to generate revenue of ₹20,000 crore. According to its latest investor presentation, the company acquired a total of 102 acres of land in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Mumbai. These land parcels will be used to develop residential projects, which would have estimated gross development value of ₹20,400 crore. PTI

Saudi Aramco likely to have 20% stake in BPCL refinery

The greenfield refinery-cum-petrochemical complex at Ramayapatnam in Nellore district is one of the multiple projects wherein Saudi Arabia is investing in India to the tune of about $100 bn

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Talking terms: BPCL is said to be negotiating with Aramco through the Govt. of India, for long-term crude suppy to the RcPC. REUTERS

The BPCL's greenfield refinery-cum-petrochemical complex (RcPC) at Ramayapatnam in Nellore district is likely to have Aramco, the Saudi Arabia-based energy and chemicals behemoth, as a partner with 20% stake. Discussions in this regard are under way between the governments of India and Saudi Arabia, which, according to highly-placed State government sources, are working out the terms and conditions of an agreement. This is poised to be ready by the year-end.

The RcPC will be close to the Ramayapatnam seaport – which is in an advanced stage of construction – for the sake of synergy, and is being taken up in pursuance of the fledgeling trade between India and Saudi Arabia. It is one of the multiple projects in which Saudi Arabia is investing in India to the tune of about $100 billion.

Through the Government of India, the BPCL is said to be negotiating with Aramco for a long-term crude oil supply agreement for the RcPC at Ramayapatnam. The BPCL RcPC is intended to meet India's burgeoning energy demand, and the State government has agreed to provide 6,000 acres.

Being a massive project with a refining capacity of 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) and entailing a capital expenditure of nearly ₹1 lakh crore, the RcPC is expected to take at least four years for commissioning once the requisite approvals are given.

The BPCL had sanctioned ₹6,100 crore for pre-project activities, which include various initial studies, identification of land and its acquisition, preparation of detailed feasibility report, environmental impact assessment, basic design engineering package and front-end engineering design.

The State government had offered three sites for the project, namely Machilipatnam, Ramayapatnam and Mulapeta in Srikakulam district and the BPCL zeroed in on Ramayapatnam due to its relatively superior logistics and multimodal connectivity. Depending on the market dynamics, the oil PSU may expand the capacity of the Ramayapatnam RcPC to 12 MMTPA.

ICICI Bank hikes minimum balance for new savings accounts fivefold to ₹50,000

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

ICICI Bank has raised the minimum balance requirement for its new savings bank accounts opened on or after August 1 by five times to ₹50,000.

The minimum monthly average balance (MAB) for savings bank accounts till July 31, 2025 for ICICI Bank customers was ₹10,000.

Similarly, MAB for semi-urban locations and rural locations have been increased five times to ₹25,000 and ₹10,000, respectively, according to information available on the ICICI Bank website.

In case account holders failed to meet the MAB, customers would be liable to pay penal charges of 6% of the shortfall in required MAB, or ₹500, whichever is lower.

The increased MAB will be applicable for new accounts opened on or after August 1, 2025.

Salary account holders or PM Jandhan account holders and basic savings bank deposit account holders are exempt from this high MAB as these are zero balance accounts.

Direct impact of U.S.'s higher tariff likely to be limited: SBI chief

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

C.S.Setty

State Bank of India Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Shetty on Saturday said the direct impact of the higher tariff scenario unfolding in the U.S. is likely to be limited not just on books of the bank, but also on India given the geographical spread and basket of exports from the country.

Textiles, gems and jewellery and aquamarine are among a few industries bound to be impacted given their exports are predominantly to the U.S. and consequently may require some hand holding. Though exposure to these industries is limited, if need be banks will get involved in "how do we protect [them] along with the government of India if the tariff issue is not resolved faster," he told mediapersons after launching SBI General Insurance's 30 specialised health insurance branches across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana at a function in Hyderabad.

On likely relief measures banks could provide, Mr. Setty said, "We are working with the regulator. It's too early to talk... we are confident some resolution will happen on tariffs since India is not alone as several other countries are also facing tariff issues."

Asked if restructuring will be one of the relief measures, the SBI head said, "I think it's too early. Let's not go there. I'm sure there will be some solution on the tariff."

To a query on plans for an Initial Public Offering of the general insurance subsidiary, he said SBI General Insurance and asset management subsidiary SBI Mutual Fund are the two serious candidates in the Group being considered for listing. "But the timelines are not decided yet," he added.

On whether further tweaks to bancassurance norms are required, he said lot of reforms have happened in recent times to the insurance distribution model involving the banks. It is a powerful channel, he said, adding the focus should be on ensuring right selling happens. Though the number of policies customers cancel within the free look period is miniscule, SBI General Insurance analyses such cases to ensure that it is not account of mis-selling. SBI General Insurance MD and CEO Naveen Chandra Jha said the insurer is piloting the concept of dedicated health insurance branches from the two States and may extend it to Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand next.

Vizhinjam seaport Phase Two expansion likely next month

Kalyanaraman M

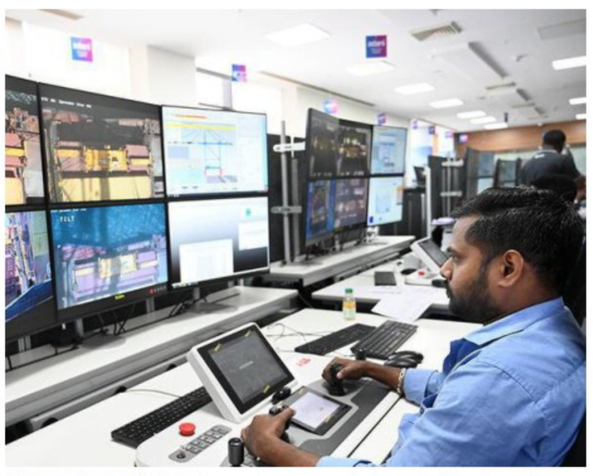
The Vizhinjam seaport that was dedicated to the nation early May will likely see the kick-off of its Phase two expansion next month. Phase two, expected to be completed by 2028, targets increasing the port's container capacity to some 4.5 million TEU a year and will add a break-bulk berth, a tanker berth and a bunkering facility on an extended 4-km-long breakwater.

Vizhinjam port, which has handled nearly 1 million TEUs after starting commercial operations in December 2024, now has an 800-m long container ship jetty capable of handling one container mother ship and two feeder vessels at a time.

Phase two will increase the length of the container berth to 2000-m long and hold three mother ships and several feeder vessels at the same time.

While Phase 1 costing a little less than ₹9,000 cr, saw the financial participation of the Kerala and the Union governments including through viability gap funding, the finance for Phase 2 costing ₹10,000 crore will be entirely raised by the Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd (APSEZ), the ports and logistics company of the Adani Group.

In 2015, the Kerala government had signed an agreement with APSEZ to develop the port and Adani has a 40-year concession to build, operate, and transfer the port, with a provision for a 20-year extension. The port commenced trial operations in July 2024, receiving its first mothership, the San Fernando.



Men and machines: The port has commissioned eight Quay Cranes that are operated remotely from a control room. BIJOY GHOSH

The port has a natural deep draft of some 20 m close to the shore that requires little dredging.

During the inauguration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that 75% of India's transshipment operations were previously conducted at foreign ports, leading to significant revenue loss for the country.

And Vizhinjam will help ensure that India's money will serve India. Port officials say the port is expected to lower logistics costs for Indian manufacturers by 30-40%, enhancing the country's export competitiveness.

So far, all the containers handled by the port have been transshipment cargo - 60% international and 40% Indian.

The port has handled no exim cargo – containers leaving and entering Vizhinjam by road or rail after customs clearance.

Port managers say that exim cargo will grow to account for 20%, even as the second phase expansion happens. They are citing the exclusive rail line from Vizhinjam port to Balaramapuram that is being laid by the Government of Kerala and is expected to be completed by 2028. A road connecting the port and NH 66 (Mumbai- Kanyakumari) is almost ready to open, port managers say. These would help Vizhinjam's inland connectivity through road and rail and facilitate exim cargo.

Merchant ships on global trade need periodic changes of crew.

On the East-West sea route where Vizhinjam is located, Singapore and Reunion Island are prominent crew change points.

Vizhinjam port officials are working with the government to establish an international crew change facility, leveraging the locational advantage.

A crew change facility could potentially boost local economy through hotels, restaurants and other facilities serving seafarers in transit.

Some of the largest container vessels of 400 m length and capacity of some 24,000 TEUs have docked at Vizhinjam.

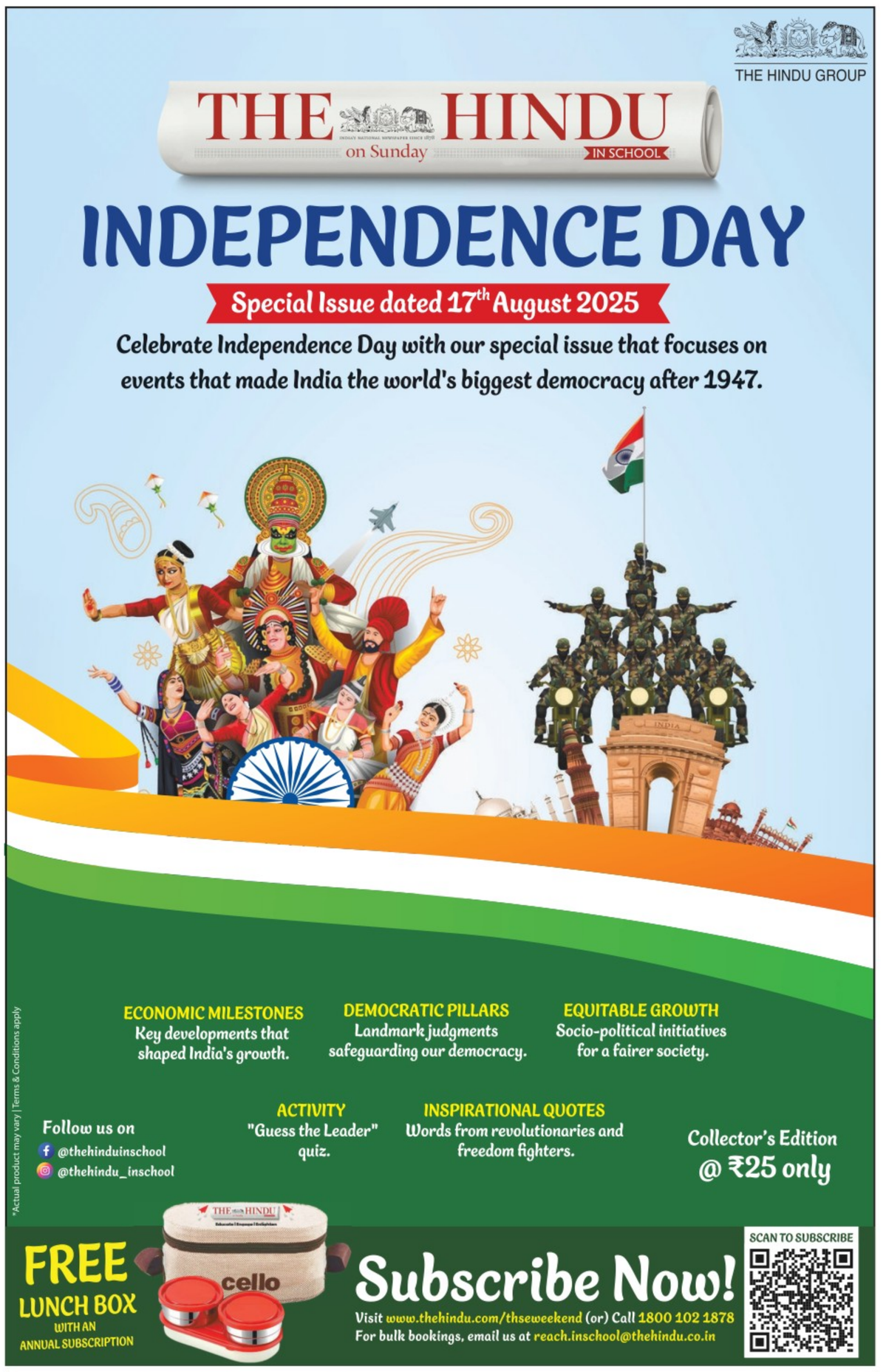
Port managers recall a fully loaded Claude Girardet, another 399-m long mega container vessel, taking a detour and steaming into Vizhinjam after the crew found that some 10 containers had to be restacked for the sake of ship stability and safety. In a few hours, the containers were restacked and Girardet set sail. Vizhinjam boasts of being a hi-tech port with operators at an air-conditioned remote control station handling the cranes at the container stacks as well as shipside.

Automated handling

The port has commissioned 8 Quay Cranes that are operated remotely from a control room and 20 fully automated Cantilever Rail Mounted Gantry cranes performing container operations without the need of a human crane operator. The entire container handling operations are executed by automation systems deployed by ABB systems, who are the world leaders in container terminal automation, he said. For monitoring and controlling ship operations, an advanced Digital Twin system is implemented, that automatically collects and assimilates machine and operational events, using IoT systems, in real-time on a large 3D video wall, enabling the controllers to be proactive and respond to operational exceptions without delays.

The port has also adopted advanced sensor and radar-based technology along with artificial intelligence to effectively track, coordinate, and manage large container ships as they arrive to dock and depart after unloading.

(The writer was at Vizhinjam at the invitation of the company)



Ocean model affirms Fukushima wastewater release is safe

The Hindu Bureau

Most monitoring of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant's release of tritiated wastewater has thus far focused on local coastal waters. No global-scale study has tracked how tritium from the planned 30-year discharge might move through a warming Pacific Ocean.

To fill this gap, researchers from University of Tokyo and Fukushima University recently combined accurate estimates of the amount and timing of tritium release with an ocean circulation model called COCO 4.9. The model solved the basic physics of ocean flow on a grid with 62 vertical layers and two alternative horizontal meshes, about 1° for low-resolution simulations runs and 0.25° for experiments that need to resolve patterns up to the level of eddies.

Two phases

The researchers 'injected' tritium into the model in two phases. First, they added 179-181 TBq for the 2011-2019 period into the model's surface layer to mimic the Fukushima disaster's effects. Then they added 480 TBq over 2023-2051 some 11 m below the surface. This dose is the highest possible the Tokyo Electric Power Company is expected to release during the discharge.

Then they explored three scenarios: present-day conditions, a strong warming pathway (SSP5-8.5), and mesoscale eddies. Across each simulation, the team found that tritium levels in the open Pacific remained below current detection limits, except immediately next to the plant during the 2011 accident spike. The peaks from the routine discharge never exceed 0.002 Bq/L, which is 25x lower than natural background radiation levels.

The team also reported that warmer oceans might shift the important Kuroshio Current a little north and strengthen eastward flow, cutting the time the first trace of tritium takes to travel to the mid-Pacific and Asian subtropical coasts by roughly three years. Even then, the modelled concentration of tritium stayed three orders of magnitude under the detection threshold.

The simulation that resolved the eddies showed that small quantities of tritium might reach western North America or the South China Sea sooner than expected.

Because the facility is releasing tritiated water so slowly, the radiation it's responsible for is lower than that due to natural and historical sources. And because tritium has a half life of around 12 years, the modelled levels of the element remained undetectable across the wider Pacific Ocean through 2099, even under extreme warming or a worst-case eddy transport scenario.

The team's findings are to be published in the November 2025 edition of *Marine Pollution Bulletin*.

Cracking the mystery of how proteins found their shapes

Even for a modest 60-amino-acid protein core, the number of possible combinations is around 10^78; the question of how evolution was able to navigate such possibilities to find functional sequences across millions of proteins has been answered

Arun Panchapakesan

In 1959, the American biochemist Walter Kauzmann proposed a radical solution to the problem of protein structure. At the time, it was unclear how proteins, the workhorses of the cell, fold into their unique three-dimensional forms.

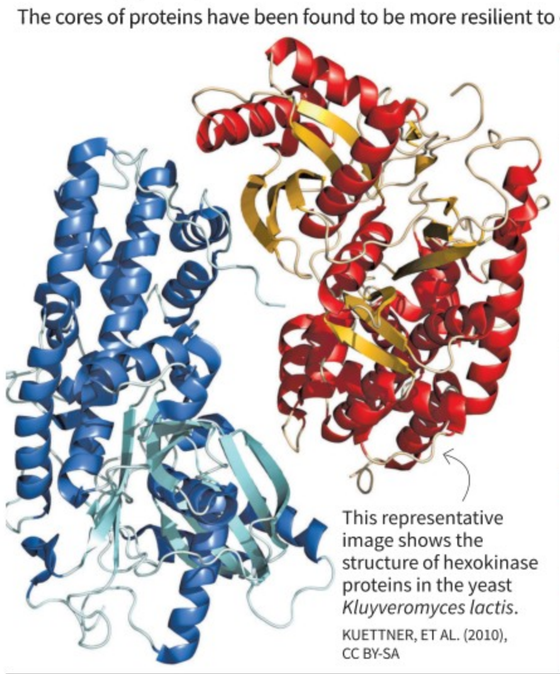
Every protein is made up of a set of 20 amino acids, rather like beads on a string. The length and order of these amino acid beads dictate how that protein folds into its unique shape. This is important because the shape of a protein is vital to its function. Any disruption to this structure destroys the protein's ability to do its job. How nature ensures correct protein folding each time remains one of the biggest mysteries in science.

At the heart of the problem is the knowledge that amino acids interact with water in two distinct ways. Some of them, like lysine, love water; then there are those like tryptophan that don't like water. These hydrophobic amino acids in fact avoid water as much as possible, to the extent that they often clump together to minimise exposure.

Since about 70% of the cell is made of water, how the amino acids' arrangement interacts with water molecules is pivotal to how they fold. If a protein contains a stretch of hydrophobic amino acids, they will naturally tend to aggregate, compacting the entire protein in the process.

The right path

The cores of proteins have been found to be more resilient to change than believed



This representative image shows the structure of hexokinase proteins in the yeast *Kluyveromyces lactis*.
KUETTNER, ET AL. (2010), CC BY-SA

- Proteins fold because hydrophobic amino acids hide inside while hydrophilic ones stay outside, Walter Kauzmann proposed in 1959
- Since proteins can fold in trillions of ways, how did they always figure out the way that allowed them to function properly?
- To understand how, Spanish and British researchers generated and studied 78,125 amino acid combinations across three proteins
- They found that thousands of alternative core sequences still formed stable structures, overturning long-held assumptions about fragility
- The study also showed protein cores tolerated more changes, suggesting evolution's search space was less daunting than believed
- The results have implications for medicine, where proteins' sequence can be adjusted to prevent unwanted immune reactions

Kauzmann built on this idea and proposed that proteins have a core largely made up of hydrophobic amino acids and a surface made primarily of hydrophilic amino acids. When scientists began to map protein structures with X-ray crystallography in the following decade, they saw what he predicted was true: the hydrophobic amino acids were often buried in the core while the hydrophilic ones tended to localise to the surface.

Further research showed that the amino acids at the core were also very sensitive to changes. It appeared that even minor modifications in the core could disrupt the protein's shape and, consequently, function.

Another piece of evidence supporting this line of thought was that the amino acid sequences from the cores of proteins common to different forms of life were remarkably similar. Scientists reasoned that this was because nature couldn't afford to change them without lethal consequences.

But this raised another question. If the effects of a wrong amino acid combination are so drastic, how did nature, while relying on slow, incremental trial and error, manage to find functional protein structures at all?

Even for a modest 60-amino-acid protein core, the number of possible combinations is around 10^{78}, a number comparable to the estimated number of atoms in the known universe. It's astonishing that evolution was able to navigate such numerous possibilities to find stable, functional sequences not once, but again and again, across the millions of proteins found in life today.

This mystery has now been put to rest by a team from the Centre for Genomic Regulation in Spain and the Wellcome Sanger Institute in the U.K.

In a new paper in *Science*, the team challenged the original assumption that protein cores are sensitive to change. They argued that, of the astronomically high number of combinations of protein cores that are possible, few have been tested. The changes made in those studies also didn't allow for compensating adjustments elsewhere in the protein.

The team tested this by first generating a library of 78,125 different amino acid combinations across seven locations in the cores of three proteins: the SH3 domain of FYN tyrosine protein kinase from humans, the CI-2A protein from barley, and the CspA protein from *Escherichia coli* bacteria. Then they tested the stability of some of these combinations to assess how they changed the proteins.

Remarkably, the authors found that while most combinations were indeed detrimental, several remained stable, showing that protein cores are more resilient to change than previously believed. The actual number of stable combinations varied from protein to protein, with the highest being the human SH3-FYN, which had more than 12,000 stable core conformations.

The study's results have several implications for medicine. Many proteins trigger an unwanted immune reaction when administered due to their amino acid sequence.

Changing that sequence was a slow and painful process, since scientists believed too many changes would disrupt the protein. With the new insights, it may be possible to speed up the process by screening larger combinations and with more changes than were attempted previously.

(Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai)

In search of the elusive and threatened fishing cat

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

In the wild, India has 15 species belonging to the cat family. Much attention has been given to our large cats, the lions and tigers. Not much is known of the smaller wild cats - the caracal, the rusty spotted cat, the fishing cat, etc. These smaller, more secretive cats deserve due recognition, as they navigate a world increasingly full of threats far larger than themselves.

Wetlands in India are home to the fishing cat, which grows to twice the size of the domestic cat, weighs seven to 12 kg, and has a greyish brown fur lined with black spots. In its territory, this cat is often the apex predator, meaning no other creature preys on it. Wetlands are vibrant ecosystems characterised by waterlogged soil like that found in river floodplains, mangroves, and swamps.

Some unusual adaptations enable the fishing cat to get by in wet surroundings. Partially webbed paws, a dense water-resistant coat and the ability to swim while fully submerged in water indicate aquatic leanings. Protruding claws, which cannot be fully retracted, help the cat with gripping slippery mud and fish. The cats' diet is primarily fish, although rodents, chickens, and other small animals are always welcome.

The fishing cat spends 50% of its hunting time standing, sitting or crouching near the edge of water.

A fishing cat among mangroves in the Godavari river at night, 2018.
SRICHAKRA PRANAV (CC BY-SA)

Barely 5% of hunting time is spent submerged in water. In shallow water, the cat keeps moving slowly, pausing to flush a fish out with its paws before grabbing it with the mouth.

Populations of the fishing cat are found in scattered pockets: the terai region of the Himalayas, some marshes of Western India, the Sundarbans, along the East coast, and in Sri Lanka.

Wildlife surveys for keeping track of the patchy populations of this elusive nocturnal cat utilise camera traps set near the water's edge. An elaborate count has been conducted by Tiasa Adhya of the Fishing Cat Project and a network of collaborators (see fishingcat.org) in the Chilka lake, where there is an abundance of fish and limited conflict with humans. Extrapolating their results gives us an estimate of about 750 fishing cats in the 1,100 sq. km expanse of the lagoon (see: *Endangered Species Research*, 54, 1, 2024).

This healthy number contrasts with the cats' rapidly dwindling numbers in the Sundarbans. Fishing cats were thought to have died out in Rajasthan until sightings in the Keoladeo National Park earlier this year.

The decline is largely on account of habitat loss. It has been estimated that 30-40% of India's wetlands have been lost or severely degraded in the last four decades. Protecting wetland ecosystems is therefore crucial for the fishing cat. Human encroachment has also severely affected them. Many people see them as predators of fish ponds and chicken coops, and an alarming number of revenge kills by humans have been documented. Community-based conservation programmes appear to hold the key to reducing this animosity.

This year, the Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun has initiated a project to track fishing cats in the estuaries of the Godavari river within the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

Using GPS collars with GIS integration, precise location data of collared cats will be collected. Continuous data from the collars will provide insights on preferred habitats, movement, and where they encounter human settlements. All these will be useful for designing strategies to boost fishing cat populations.

(This article was co-authored with Sushil Chandani)

SNAPSHOTS

KIRT L. ONTHANK

Unique protein makes chitons' teeth of iron

Sea molluscs called chitons scrape food off rocks with teeth capped with an iron mineral tougher than steel. New research has reported that a protein made only by chitons, called RTMP1, is responsible for this armour. Cells secreted RTMP1 onto the scaffold of each new tooth. RTMP1 latched onto chitin and captured iron ions released from the iron-storing protein ferritin, assembling them to cap the teeth. The process also kept older teeth sharp, letting chitons grind through rock for life.

New condenser cuts water use in chem labs

Scientists have designed a simple, water-free glass condenser that saves water in chemical experiments without sacrificing performance. Traditional lab condensers use running water to cool vapours. The new design is made of glass and is capped with a Teflon stopper with a safety valve, and has a larger internal volume. When vapours entered the condenser, they were forced to slow down and increase contact with the glass, which drew the heat away, while the valve prevented the pressure from building up.

A little enzyme changed human behaviour

Scientists have found that a genetic tweak in the enzyme adenylosuccinate lyase (ADSL) sets modern humans apart from Neanderthals and Denisovans. Nearly everyone today carries a mutation called A429V plus a DNA dimmer switch that together lower ADSL activity in the brain. In humans, the genetic combo cuts ADSL expression and raises succinyladenosine levels in spinal fluid, a molecule modestly linked to lower intelligence.

Question Corner

Up, up, and away

Why does an elevator need three-phase electrical power to work?

Because elevators are critical systems, downtime is expensive and dangerous. To avoid this, elevators need three-phase electrical power to meet high power demand without compromising their reliability. Elevators include components that together demand a large and balanced power supply. Three-phase power provides consistent, balanced voltage with minimal fluctuation (less than 3% if required) to handle power surges safely.

The electric motors also require high starting torque and smooth, efficient operation. And three-phase motors start more easily, run more smoothly, and are more efficient compared to single-phase motors, which are also generally less reliable. Further, three-phase power systems use less wiring relative to the capacity provided and distribute power across three alternating current phases staggered in time. This results in a constant power supply that reduces the mechanical stress on motors and improves their lifespan.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

FAQ

What happens to 'missing names' on Bihar SIR list?

What is the next phase in the special intensive revision of electoral rolls? When will the final list be released?

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

The Election Commission (EC) has completed the first phase of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar by publishing the draft voter list on August 1. However, 65 lakh names have been removed from this list for various reasons, and the fate of lakhs who have been included on the draft list without submitting verification documents is also up in the air. As poll officials scrutinise forms and conduct inquiries on claims and objections in preparation for the publication of the final list on September 30, the Supreme Court is hearing objections to the SIR process filed by Opposition parties and civil society groups, with the next hearing set for August 12.

What happened in the first phase of SIR?

In the month after the EC launched the Bihar SIR process on June 24, booth-level officers (BLOs) carried out house visits, distributing pre-printed enumeration forms. Voters not included on the 2003 electoral rolls were required to submit documents proving the date and place of birth of themselves and their parents. As it became clear that many voters could not provide any of the EC's 11 approved documents – which did not include more commonly available documents such as Aadhaar, voter ID cards, or ration cards – the EC issued an advertisement on July 6, urging people to submit their forms before the deadline even if they could not provide supporting documents, leaving it to the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to process the forms on the basis of local investigations or other evidence. All those who submitted their forms before the deadline were included on the draft roll published on August 1.

> Claims and objections to the draft roll can be filed throughout August to correct wrongful inclusions or exclusions. One week into the process, the EC has received 7,252 such claims from various individuals

Who are the 'missing names' in the draft?

The existing electoral rolls just before the SIR process began contained the names of 7.89 crore registered voters. The draft rolls published on August 1, however, only contain 7.24 crore names, indicating a dip of more than 65 lakh. The ECI accounted for these 65 lakh "missing names" by explaining that 22.34 lakh people on the earlier list were found to be deceased, 36.28 lakh have migrated permanently to another State, or are untraceable, and 7.01 lakh are duplicate voters who have been found registered in multiple locations. Patna saw the highest number of such cases, with 3.95 lakh voters not included on the draft list. On July 13, the EC said a large number of people from Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar were found during the house-to-house verification exercise and that they would not be included in the final electoral roll. *The Hindu* analysed the deleted names by comparing the draft roll with a list published by the EC in January 2025, which shows a drop of 56 lakh names, including 31 lakh fewer women voters and 25 lakh fewer men, which is unusual given that majority of migration outside the State is by men. Analysis indicated that more deletions may have occurred in districts with larger Muslim populations as per 2011 Census.

How can names be added or deleted?

Claims and objections to the draft roll can be filed throughout August to correct wrongful inclusions or exclusions. One week into the process, the EC has received 7,252 such claims and objections from individuals. Political parties have claimed that their ground workers too have filed similar claims to correct errors in the draft roll but the EC has denied it. In a plea to the Supreme Court, poll watchdog Association for Democratic Reforms said the full list of names removed from the draft rolls, along with specific reasons for removal, has not been provided to all political parties. EROs are to conduct inquiries on claims and dispose of them within seven days of filing. Each ERO is also expected to display the list of claims daily so that objections can be raised by the public.

What will happen to those who submitted their forms without documents?

The SIR order seems to leave such cases to the discretion of the EROs and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) who will scrutinise the eligibility of electors based on documents submitted and field reports provided by BLOs. "In case ERO/AERO doubts the eligibility of the proposed elector (due to non-submission of requisite documents or otherwise), he/she will start a *suo moto* inquiry and issue notice to such proposed elector, as to why his/her name should not be deleted," the order says. "Based on field inquiry, documentation or otherwise, ERO/AERO shall decide on inclusion of such proposed electors in the final rolls. In each such case, ERO/AERO shall pass a speaking order," it adds. No name can be deleted from the draft roll without such a speaking order, the EC said.

Will India cave in to U.S. pressure on Russian oil?

Why has President Donald Trump announced penalty tariffs on India? When does it come into effect? Is a rapprochement possible before the deadline? How much oil does India import from Russia? Has India begun reducing oil buys from Russia and importing more from other countries?

Suhasini Haidar

The story so far:

On August 6, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a whopping 25% penalty tariff on Indian goods for India's import of Russian oil. This was on top of the 25% reciprocal tariffs announced on July 31 after Indian and U.S. negotiators failed to reach a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

How has India responded to the tariffs?

India has so far not announced any overt action against the U.S. for its tariffs. The 25% reciprocal tariffs went into effect on August 7, and the impact will unfold in the upcoming weeks. Already, reports suggest garment exporters are facing trouble with U.S. importers suspending orders, given that U.S. tariffs on Asian competitors in Vietnam, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are much lower. Mr. Trump's penalty tariffs, meanwhile, will go into effect on August 27, and New Delhi is hopeful that there will be some change in position.

As a result, India's response has been carried in three statements. On August 4, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a release criticising both the U.S. and the European Union for "targeting" India over Russian oil imports, pointing out that they both continue to trade with Russia. While the U.S. procures critical minerals, chemicals and nuclear trade components, the EU countries continue to buy oil and LNG from Russia. On August 6, the MEA called the U.S. actions "extremely unfortunate" and "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable", vowing to protect India's national interests. On August 7, Prime Minister Modi said that he was ready to pay a price "personally" to protect the interests of India's farmers, fishermen and livestock, and dairy keepers. This was an indication that India-U.S. trade talks had broken down over market access to the agricultural sector. Between giving in on market access or giving up Russian oil, India appears to be facing two 'impossible' choices.

> Trump may modify penalty tariffs on India if Russia agrees to a deal to end Ukraine war

In the crosshairs: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2018. PTI

Can the tariffs be stopped?

Mr. Trump has announced that he will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on August 15 in Alaska, which incidentally will be the first Putin trip to the U.S. since 2015 when he travelled to the UN for a summit. According to reports, Mr. Putin has offered to stop the war in exchange for keeping territories the Russian forces control, but it is unclear if this would be acceptable to Ukraine and European countries. If there is a deal, India may receive a roll back of the Russian oil penalties, and the MEA issued a statement Saturday welcoming and "endorsing" plans for the Trump-Putin Summit. In his executive order of August 6, Mr. Trump has given himself "modification authority", if Russia were to "take significant steps" to end the Ukraine war and security threats to the U.S.

In addition, a U.S. team of FTA negotiators are scheduled to visit Delhi on August 25. If India makes certain concessions on trade and market access, a mini-trade deal could go a long way in reducing the U.S. tariffs.

How much Russian oil does India procure?

Prior to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, India imported very little oil from Russia. Ural oil, considered "heavy" crude and priced too high as Russia had European buyers, consisted only 1% of India's basket of sellers. After the EU began to sanction Russia, and committed to zeroing out all energy purchases from Russia, the price of Ural dropped, and India, as well as China and others, began to pick up more Russian oil.

By May 2023, India was importing two million plus barrels of Russian crude per day (bpd), making up between 35-40% of India's basket. Russia has been its largest supplier since. However, India-Russia energy ties go beyond this trade. After the Modi-Putin summit in Sochi in May 2018, and Mr. Putin's visit to India for the annual summit that year, the India-Russia joint statement recorded investments of over $5 billion by an Indian consortium of PSUs in Vankorneft and Taas-Yuryakh Neftegazodobycha in Russia. Russian oil major Rosneft picked up a 49% stake in Essar Oil for $12.9 billion. The new entity was renamed Nayara Energy, and it included Essar's Vadinar refinery in Gujarat – 49% stake went to a consortium, and Essar retained 2%. Vadinar refinery, along with other private refiners like Reliance, began to reprocess Russian oil and export it to other countries over the next few years. Mr. Trump called this, "selling it on the open markets for big profits". None of this violated any sanctions, and despite requests from Western countries, the government continued to purchase oil from Russia, saving India about $13 billion by 2024 and a further $3.8 billion in 2025, according to estimates by the ICRA.

Experts say it will be difficult for the government to give in to U.S. pressure this time, economically as well as politically and diplomatically. The Indian government would lose face domestically, and risk damaging ties with an all-important friend, Russia. For the moment, Kpler reports that the price of Ural has dropped after demand has reduced from Indian companies, but experts say it is unlikely to completely stop Russian imports, even as India broadens its non-Russian intake through the U.S., Iraq, Kuwait, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

What happened with oil imports from Iran?

India's refusal to stop importing Russian oil was a shift from 2018, when Mr. Trump had demanded India's compliance in "zeroing out" oil from Iran and Venezuela. After initially maintaining that India would not bow to such diktats, the government caved in by May 2019, and stopped all its direct oil purchases from both Iran and Venezuela, incurring heavy losses, as the oil was both "sweet" for its refineries and priced competitively.

What does this mean for foreign policy?

Since 1999, after the U.S. placed sanctions on India for nuclear tests, Delhi and Washington have worked tirelessly to change relations between them. They have built trust for a quarter of a century through a civil nuclear deal, military and defence cooperation, counter-terror cooperation, technology partnerships and the Quad grouping in the Indo-Pacific. Experts in both countries say that besides hurting Indian trade, Mr. Trump's actions will damage the India-U.S. relationship in several other areas. At the same time, Delhi's moves to shore up strategic autonomy and independence are significant. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval travelled to Moscow last week to prepare for Mr. Putin's visit to India, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is expected to follow later in the month.

Mr. Modi will travel to Japan and then to China for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit and a bilateral meeting with President Xi Jinping, on his first such visit since the 2020 LAC (Line of Actual Control) military clashes. Moreover, Delhi is due to host the Quad summit this November, and much will depend on whether Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump can restore ties by then.

How is AI reshaping India's infotech sector?

Why is the IT industry in restructuring mode, leading to job cuts and changes in business strategies? Why are experts calling for Indian firms to reposition themselves as indispensable partners for the AI era? How are recent TCS announcements reflective of the Indian tech sector?

Mini Tejaswi

The story so far:

Recent announcements from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) – a reported freeze on experienced hires, and the planned removal of 12,000 employees – have sent ripples of anxiety across the Indian tech sector. The Indian IT industry, which generates $280 billion in revenue and employs more than 5.8 million people, is at a crossroads.

Why is a shake-up happening?

While headlines often sensationalise these events as a direct consequence of AI (artificial intelligence) "culling jobs", a far more complex scenario is playing out. "These developments are not isolated incidents but rather critical indicators of AI-catalysed transformation sweeping through software development and IT services, demanding a holistic re-evaluation of business models, talent strategies, and the very nature of work," says Avinash Vashistha, former MD, Accenture India, and currently Chairman & CEO, Tholons, a New York-based technology, innovation and investment firm. At the heart of this transformation is AI's capacity to drive unprecedented efficiencies across the entire software development lifecycle.

> 'The AI shift has already started to impact hiring, organisational structures'

GETTY IMAGES

Why is AI gaining momentum now?

In a climate where most deal wins are being led by cost-optimisation initiatives, demonstrating efficiency is paramount for investor confidence, and AI-led productivity is helping companies do that, Mr. Vashistha says. AI-powered coding assistants, code generation tools, and intelligent debuggers are already enabling over 30% productivity boosts. The impact extends powerfully into the critical, often resource-intensive domains of testing and maintenance. AI in software testing is a game-changer. AI-driven tools can minimise human error and enhance the overall accuracy of test results by leveraging data-driven insights.

How will it impact jobs?

AI is no longer a futuristic technology limited to labs and startups. It is becoming the very fabric of how work gets done in global enterprises. In 2025 alone, more than $1 trillion is expected to be spent globally on AI infrastructure, model training, and application development.

"From generative AI chatbots to intelligent automation in back-end systems, AI is now shaping everything – how customer service is delivered and how decisions are made in boardrooms. This shift has already started to impact hiring and organisational structures. In the U.S., the CEO of Wells Fargo remarked that 'attrition is our best friend', after the company reduced its workforce for 20 straight quarters," points out V. Balakrishnan, Chairman, Exfinity Ventures, a venture capital firm, also former CFO at Infosys. AI, automation, and low-code platforms are creating environments where fewer people can do more and do it faster.

Does this mean more business for India?

Most large global firms grapple with legacy infrastructure, poor-quality data, and fragmented systems which are major barriers to rolling out intelligent solutions at scale. Also, with global AI regulations like the EU's AI Act coming into force, companies will need to demonstrate responsible AI usage, privacy compliance, and algorithmic fairness. "This is where Indian IT can play a pivotal role. By helping global clients clean and organise data, modernise old systems, and build compliant AI solutions, Indian firms can reposition themselves as indispensable partners for the AI era. Rather than being disrupted by AI, they can become the very agents that help their clients adopt it effectively," says Mr. Balakrishnan.

What's the message TCS is sending?

Industry experts say TCS, with its vast workforce of 6,07,979 employees as of March 2025, is an industry bellwether. Its recent announcements are a strategic message to the stock market, to employees, and to global clients, Mr. Vashishta says. For the stock market, such moves signal a disciplined approach to cost optimisation and a proactive stance in adapting to a changing market. For clients, TCS's actions communicate its commitment to delivering highly efficient, AI-catalysed solutions. To employees, the message is one of heightened expectations and the need for continuous skill transformation. For more than three decades, India's IT services industry – spearheaded by TCS, Infosys, Wipro, and their peers – has been the bedrock of its global digital identity, earning India its place as the "back office of the world". But that era is "sunsetting", says Sharad Sharma, co-founder of the ISPIRT Foundation. A seminal shift, which Andrej Karpathy, former technology head of Tesla, calls Software 2.0 & 3.0, "will change things fundamentally and reduce the advantage of scale". India's tech future will not be built by coding armies billing hours for legacy systems. It will be built by lean, AI-native small firms solving complex problems in healthcare, defence, fintech, sustainability, education, and beyond. "Tech firms no longer need a large IT park to serve global clients. A team of 50 can out-innovate a team of 5,000," Mr. Sharma says.

What does this mean for Indian techies?

AI is not likely to replace coders/system engineers who code in C++, which is used to build operating systems, gaming, graphics, and critical secure applications. Wherever human ingenuity, critical thinking, and imagination is needed, AI is yet to make a huge practical impact. B.S. Murthy, CEO, Leadership Capital, says, "AI will not immediately replace domain competencies like tech architects, dev ops, UI/UX, product management, robotics & embedded systems. Talent high on math and imagination will rule the roost in this decade."

The professor who rose to power

Muhammad Yunus

The 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner, who became the 'Chief Adviser' of Bangladesh's post-Hasina interim administration, promises a peaceful transfer of power after next year's 'inclusive elections', in which the Awami League, now officially banned, will not be able to participate

Kallol Bhattacherjee

Muhammad Yunus was born in Chittagong in southeast Bengal at the height of the Second World War when the Japanese captured Myanmar and threatened parts of eastern India. By the time he turned three, Japanese bombers flew over the skies of Chittagong where they would release anti-British pamphlets. One day, a Japanese bomb fell nearby and demolished a part of his house, forcing the whole family to shift to a village. Uncertain circumstances at home inculcated the importance of dialogue and compromise within him. Over the past year, as the Chief Adviser to the interim government of Bangladesh, Mr. Yunus, 85, has displayed some of the skills he gathered during his early life.

In his latest nationally televised speech delivered on August 5, marking the first anniversary of the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government, Mr. Yunus was more emphatic about the promises that he had made upon taking charge on August 8, 2024. Bangladesh was teetering on the brink with an expanding power vacuum after Ms. Hasina fled to India. As Mr. Yunus held his first press interaction on landing at Shah Jalal Airport of Dhaka, there was an air of uncertainty around him and it was not clear if he would be able to hold the government consisting of 'advisers' together. A year later, he appears to be the undisputed face of the interim government. To deal with the deteriorating law and order situation and the breakdown in the political system, he promised to hold election in February 2026. "We will step into the final and most important phase after delivering this speech to you and that is the transfer of power to an elected government," Mr. Yunus said.

Consensus candidate

A former professor of economics at Chittagong University, pioneer of microfinancing and winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, Mr. Yunus was brought in to head the interim administration as the consensus candidate of anti-Hasina movement. He started talking of transfer of power soon after he took charge last August, but it was not clear how that process would be completed amid law and order problems and political instability. His first move was to take his large body of international well wishers into confidence.

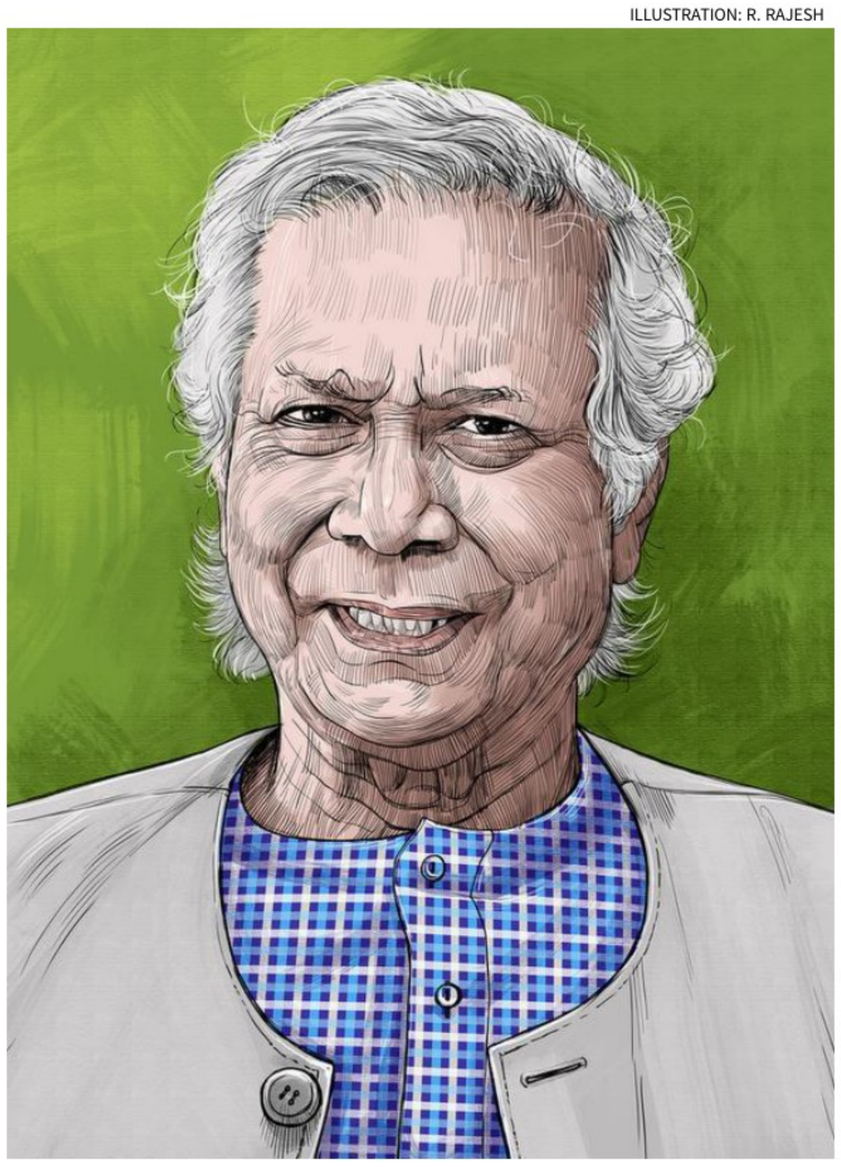
Weeks after taking charge as Chief Adviser, he proceeded to New York to introduce the new ruling elite of Bangladesh – the student leaders. He addressed an event supported by the Clinton Foundation where he introduced Mahfuz Alam, one of the key mobilisers of the anti-Hasina uprising, to former U.S. President Bill Clinton. Mr. Alam and other student advisers made up the inner circle of Mr. Yunus, who demanded Hasina be brought back from India. Tensions rose in bilateral ties in the subsequent months. When a flood ravaged eastern Bangladesh in the end of August 2024, Bangladesh blamed India for releasing river water, and Mr. Yunus summoned the Indian High Commissioner.

Ties with India

Mr. Yunus first visited India in his teens when he travelled through India to Karachi in West Pakistan as a boy scout to participate in a jamboree. He has fond memories of that visit that he wrote in his autobiography, *Grameen Bank O Amaar Jibon*. But Bangladesh's relations with India under his leadership were marked by a series of disruptions. Late last year, Mr. Alam made social media statements depicting large territories of India as part of Bangladesh. He deleted his Facebook post, but the Ministry of External Affairs of India lodged a strong protest. The next episode came when Mr. Yunus visited China during March 26-29, 2025 when he said India's northeast, "a land-locked region", "opens up a huge possibility" for an extension of the Chinese economy" through Bangladesh. This also drew a strong response from India, which on May 17 barred all its land ports from receiving Bangladesh's apparel exports.

At home, Mr. Yunus had to deal with internal structural challenges. In May, with law and order challenges continuing, Army chief General Waker uz Zaman told his colleagues that the interim government had been conducting affairs of the state without consultation. Two months earlier, Mr. Yunus had promised to hold election by December 2025. But uncertainty prevailed as domestic unrest continued to be a major problem. On the night of May 21, Gen. Zaman held a closed-door meeting with his Commanding Officers. "Elections must be held by December and that only an elected government should determine the nation's course and not an unelected administration," he was reported to have said in the meeting.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



It was a proposal from the National Security Adviser, Khalilur Rahman, to open a "humanitarian corridor" to conflict-hit Rakhine province of Myanmar that triggered the strong response from Gen. Zaman.

The idea behind the corridor was to provide the conflict-hit province and its Rohingya citizens the necessary resources. However, there was no clarity about who would enforce peace in the corridor as peace was crucial for such a conflict zone project. Mr. Rahman has also served an important role in establishing connection between the Yunus-led government and the Donald Trump administration in the U.S.

The Trump administration had initially targeted Bangladesh with a 37% tariff but after negotiation, the duties were lowered to 20%, which is being seen as an achievement for Mr. Yunus. Another success has been his outreach to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Jamaat-e-Islami. The BNP criticised him in May for delaying the election, but Mr. Yunus managed to get the party on his side when he unveiled the "July Declaration" on August 5. Similarly, the Jamaat criticised his plans to allow a UN Human Rights Office in Bangladesh but has more or less stayed with him throughout the past year.

Words and deeds

However, the biggest issue before Mr. Yunus is the disjuncture between his remarks and the reality when it comes to holding elections. In his speeches on Id in June as well as on August 5, he promised to hold "inclusive elections that will be the largest in the history of Bangladesh". Yet, it is clear that the next election will not have participation from the Awami League, which has been banned. Mr. Yunus has repeatedly attacked the Awami League and Ms. Hasina as "defeated fascist forces". On August 5, he blamed Ms. Hasina for jeopardising the country's financial health. In turn, the Awami League described Mr. Yunus as a "*razakar*", a derogatory term used to describe collaborators of Pakistan who attacked Bengalis in 1971.

This anti-Hasina approach has defined much of the promises of justice that Mr. Yunus has made. One of the crucial developments of the past year under Mr. Yunus has been the reconstitution of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) in Dhaka. The ICT, which was originally constituted by the Hasina government in 2010, has now turned against the former Prime Minister and issued arrest warrants against her. Mr. Yunus has accused Ms. Hasina of holding successive rigged elections by excluding major parties. But by excluding the Awami League from the coming elections, Mr. Yunus's legacy may end up with the same shortcoming.

THE GIST

- A former professor of economics at Chittagong University and pioneer of microfinancing, Muhammad Yunus was brought in to head the interim administration as the consensus candidate of anti-Hasina movement
- He started talking of transfer of power soon after he took charge last August, but it was not clear how that process would be completed amid law and order problems and political instability
- He has now got the BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami on his side and banned the Awami League while his government is preparing to hold elections in February 2026

Settler godmother

Daniella Weiss

As much of Gaza lies in ruins amid the ongoing war, the extremist Israeli settler leader finds an opportunity to send Jews back to the Palestinian enclave

Stanly Johny

In July, British journalist Piers Morgan asked Daniella Weiss, an Israeli settler leader appearing on his show, how she felt about the killing of 20,000 Palestinian children in Gaza since October 7, 2023. Ms. Weiss, dressed in a crisp white button-down shirt and a blue-and-white patterned headscarf, responded with a grin, "Arabs around should stop attacking Israel." Mr. Morgan repeated the question six more times, before pressing her: "I will give you one last chance to offer some sympathy, or empathy or sorrow about the deaths of 20,000 children in Gaza. Are you capable of doing that?" Ms. Weiss's initial response was a laugh, followed by repeated claims that Arab children are taught "to hate Jews".

Ms. Weiss, a prominent figure in the settler movement since the 1970s, which has promoted illegal Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, returned to the spotlight in recent years after Hamas's October 7 attack. After the war began, Ms. Weiss stepped up her campaign to resume Jewish settlements in Gaza, while settlers went on rampages in the West Bank against the local Palestinian communities.

Born in 1945 in Bnei Brak, an Orthodox Jewish suburb of Tel Aviv, then part of the British-ruled Palestine, Daniella Weiss grew up attending a religious school in Ramat Gan before studying English literature and philosophy at Bar-Ilan University. Her father, born in the U.S., and mother, born in Poland, were members of Lehi, a Zionist paramilitary group founded in 1940, in Palestine.

The 'miracle' of 1967

After the 1967 war, in which Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, Gaza and Sinai from Egypt, and the Golan Heights from Syria, a new wave of Zionist activism pushed for settlements in the occupied territories. Ms. Weiss, who described the outcome of the war as "a miracle... in the dimensions of a Biblical scene", joined Gush Emunim, a right-wing extremist settler movement.

Ms. Weiss and her family settled in the West Bank settlement of Kedumim, where she served as the Mayor from 1996 to 2007. Since the 1970s, settlements have flourished in both the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Today, roughly 4,50,000 Jewish settlers live in the West Bank and 2,50,000 in East Jerusalem. In 2005, more than 10,000 settlers in Gaza were pulled back by the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, following five years of violent Hamas resistance during the Second Intifada – a decision Ms. Weiss calls "a mistake".

A close ally of Bezalel Smotrich, Israel's far-right Finance Minister who advocates the expulsion of Palestinians from Gaza and its resettlement with Jews, Ms. Weiss is currently affiliated with the Nachala Settlement Movement, which works to expand Jewish settlements in disputed areas. Nachala, which calls for "conquest, immigration and settlement in Gaza", says it has already registered 500 families for future settlement in the enclave. The group wants the war to continue "until the enemy is destroyed". Its main slogan: "Twenty years later, we are returning to the Gaza Strip." In November 2024, Ms. Weiss went to northern Gaza in an IDF-sanctioned trip to survey locations for Jewish resettlements.

Since the October 7 attacks, violence by Jewish settlers against the local Palestinian population has surged. Sixteen Palestinian communities have been driven from their land and 175 Palestinians killed. The escalating attacks prompted the Canadian and British governments to impose sanctions on Jewish settler leaders, including Ms. Weiss.

But Ms. Weiss does not seem to care. For her, the borders of the Jewish nation stretch from "the Euphrates in the east to the Nile in the southwest" (this would include a host of modern states in West Asia and Africa such as Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and part of Egypt). As for Gaza, she is unequivocal. "Gaza Arabs will not stay in the Gaza Strip. Who will stay? Jews," she said recently. "The world is wide. Africa is big. Canada is big. The world will absorb the people of Gaza. How do we do it? We encourage it."

Disruptor-in-chief

Shyam Sankar

The Mumbai-born CTO of Palantir is leading the company's rapid expansion in software and AI sectors through large government contracts

Smriti S.

In Silicon Valley, where startups often burn bright and vanish fast, Palantir Technologies has defied the odds. Over the past year, the company's stock has soared more than 600%, making it the best-performing AI name in the S&P 500. On August 9, shares closed a record $186.96, pushing the company's market cap north of $443 billion.

At the centre of this rise is Shyam Sankar, Palantir's Mumbai-born Chief Technology Officer. On July 25, his net worth crossed $1.3 billion as the company's stock soared. Raised in Orlando, Mr. Sankar earned a BS in electrical and computer engineering from Cornell University and an MS in management science and engineering from Stanford. Known as a "slayer of bureaucracy", he spent over two decades building disruptive software and AI solutions for government and private clients.

Mr. Sankar first learned about Palantir when a friend mentioned a small, stealthy, yet exciting software start-up looking for its first business hire in a largely technical role. The friend introduced him to one of the founders, and after seeing version 0.7 of the app, meeting a team of "brilliant" people, and hearing about the company's mission, Mr. Sankar knew exactly where he wanted to be.

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Founded in 2003 by Peter Thiel – a crucial backer of Donald Trump's first presidential campaign – along with Alex Karp, Joe Lonsdale, and Stephen Cohen, the Silicon Valley unicorn was initially funded by In-Q-Tel, the CIA's venture capital arm. It built its early reputation serving the U.S. government, particularly national security agencies. Since joining Palantir in 2006 as its 13th employee, Mr. Sankar has pioneered the "forward deployed engineer" model – embedding engineers directly with clients to tackle urgent, real-world challenges. This approach was key to the success of Palantir's business model.

Its name, drawn from J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, refers to "seeing stones" that reveal hidden truths. Inside the company, the unofficial motto – 'Save the Shire' – reflects its mission in plain terms: protect America from threats. Palantir's technology centralises and analyses large and disparate datasets, with applications ranging from tracking enemy drones for soldiers to monitoring ship parts for sailors, to assisting health officials in processing drug approvals. When the company's profile and operations expanded, so did Mr. Sankar's role.

Leadership role

In January 2023, he was made the CTO and executive vice-president. "Under his leadership, Palantir transformed from a Silicon Valley start-up to a global, industry leading software and AI company," reads Mr. Sankar's profile on his Substack page. Today, Palantir counts more than 30 U.S. federal agencies and a group of Fortune 500 companies as clients. The U.S. Army, once an adversary in a contracting dispute, has become one of its biggest customers. In June, Mr. Sankar himself was commissioned into the Army Reserve, a symbolic move that underscored Palantir's alignment with military priorities.

Palantir's reputation as a rapid-response problem solver was cemented during crises. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, it built systems to track the virus and vaccine distribution. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Palantir's technology got integrated into multiple Ukrainian government and military agencies. Similarly, days after the Hamas-led attack on Israel in October 2023, Mr. Karp – who is Jewish – flew with senior executives to Tel Aviv. Palantir entered a strategic partnership with Israel to provide technology to aid its war efforts. The move drew criticism from pro-Palestinian activists in the U.S. At home, Palantir drew flak for a government contract to build an app that integrates data from across the government to assist immigration enforcement.

But for Mr. Sankar and Mr. Karp, controversies are part of Palantir's DNA.

Regarding working with different government agencies on data processing and other projects, Mr. Sankar once said, it's like "shining a light on the battle space". "The things that you couldn't see before, you could see now..."

WASHINGTON

Armenia and Azerbaijan have committed to truce, says Trump

AP

Armenia and Azerbaijan committed to peace after decades of conflict, Donald Trump said after the South Caucasus rivals signed a deal on Saturday. However, Iran said it will not allow the creation of Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity — a corridor near the Iran border linking Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan exclave. AFP

LONDON

U.K. arrests 365 people for backing a banned pro-Palestine group

AFP

The police in London arrested at least 365 people on Saturday for supporting Palestine Action. The government had outlawed Palestine Action in early July, days after it took responsibility for a break-in at an air force base in southern England that caused an estimated £7 million ($9.3 million) of damage to two aircraft. AFP

NAGASAKI

Nagasaki marks 80th anniversary of America's atomic bomb attack

REUTERS

The Japanese city of Nagasaki on Saturday marked 80 years since the U.S. atomic attack, with survivors hoping that their harrowing memories can help make their hometown the last place to be hit by a nuclear bomb. The U.S. struck Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, killing 70,000, three days after bombing Hiroshima and killing 1.4 lakh. AP

DHAKA

Bangladesh poll body announces elections for first week of February

AP

Bangladesh's poll body chief on Saturday said general elections would be held in the first week of February 2026 but ensuring it in a free, fair and impartial manner remained a major challenge. Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin said the exact date would be disclosed two months before the schedule was announced. PTI

Ukraine will not cede land to buy peace, asserts Zelenskyy

U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian leader Vladimir Putin are set to meet on August 15 in Alaska; the Ukrainian leader says 'any decision without us are also decisions against peace'

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Half way: Donald Trump (left) says 'there will be some swapping of territories to the betterment of both Ukraine and Russia'. AFP

Ukraine won't surrender land to Russia to buy peace, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned on Saturday, after Washington and Moscow agreed to hold a summit in a bid to end the war.

Presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump will meet in the U.S. State of Alaska on August 15, to try to resolve the three-year conflict, despite warnings from Ukraine and Europe that Kyiv must be part of negotiations.

Announcing the summit on Friday, Mr. Trump said that "there will be some swapping of territories to the betterment of both" Ukraine and Russia, without providing further details.

"Ukrainians will not give their land to the occupier," Mr. Zelenskyy said on social media hours later.

"Any decisions against us, any decisions without Ukraine, are also decisions against peace. They will achieve nothing," he said, adding that the war "cannot be ended without us, without Ukraine".

Mr. Zelenskyy also urged Ukraine's allies to take "clear steps" towards achieving a sustainable peace, during a call with Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

National security advisors from Kyiv's allies – including the U.S., EU nations and the U.K. – were gathering in Britain on Saturday to align their views ahead of the Putin-Trump summit.

"It is truly important that the Russians do not succeed in deceiving anyone again," Mr. Zelenskyy said after a call with French President Emmanuel Macron, without elaborating further.

Three rounds of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine this year have failed to bear fruit, and it remains unclear whether a summit could bring peace any closer as the warring sides' positions are still far apart.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, with millions forced to flee their homes.

Mr. Putin has resisted multiple calls from the United States, Europe and Kyiv for a ceasefire.

Mr. Zelenskyy said Kyiv was "ready for real decisions that can bring peace" but said it should be a "dignified peace", without giving details.

Six aid seekers among 18 killed by Israel across Gaza

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Little crumbs: Palestinians collect the humanitarian aid packages that are airdropped into Deir al-Balah on Saturday. AP

Gaza's civil defence agency said at least 18 people were killed across the Palestinian territory on Saturday, including civilians who were waiting to collect aid.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said that at least six persons were killed and 30 wounded after Israeli troops targeted civilians assembling near an aid point in central Gaza.

The spokesman said strikes hit areas elsewhere in central Gaza, resulting in multiple casualties.

He later added that a drone attack near the southern city of Khan Younis killed at least three persons and injured several others.

Thousands of Palestinians congregate daily near food distribution points in Gaza, including the four managed by the U.S.- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

Since launching in late May, its operations have been marred by almost-daily reports of Israeli forces firing on those waiting to collect aid.

Severe shortage

Israeli restrictions on the entry of supplies into Gaza since the start of the war nearly two years ago have led to shortages of food and essential supplies, including medicine and fuel, which hospitals require to power their generators.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces mounting pressure to secure a ceasefire to bring the territory's more than two million people back from the brink of famine and free the hostages held by Palestinian militants.

But early on Friday, the Israeli security Cabinet went ahead and approved plans to launch major operations to seize Gaza City, triggering a wave of outrage across the globe.

Despite the backlash and rumours of dissent from Israeli military top brass, Mr. Netanyahu has remained defiant over the decision.

Teen shooter wounds three in the Times Square in U.S.

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

A 17-year-old boy opened fire and wounded three persons in New York City's heavily touristed Times Square early on Saturday, the New York Police Department said.

The shooting occurred around 1.20 a.m. (10.50 a.m. IST) following a "verbal altercation", an NYPD spokesperson said without giving further details.

An 18-year-old woman's neck was grazed, while a 19-year-old man and a 65-year-old man's lower limbs were injured, police said.

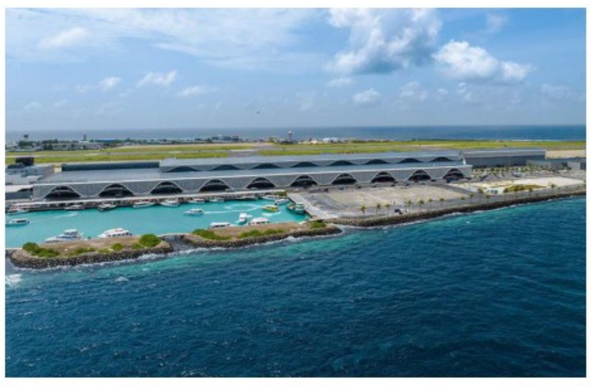
None of the injuries was considered to be life-threatening.

The three victims were taken to New York City's Bellevue Hospital, where they were determined to be in stable condition.

"The perpetrator has been taken into police custody, and a firearm has been recovered," the NYPD spokesperson added.

With new terminal, Maldives eyes more visitors

Meera Srinivasan
MALE



Fresh hopes: The recently inaugurated terminal at the Velana International Airport in Maldives. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"A pillar of economic independence" – that is what Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu called the new terminal at the Velana International Airport near Male, while inaugurating it on July 26, the country's 60th Independence day.

The launch ceremony was spectacular, with synchronised fireworks lighting up the sky – a fete that put the Maldives in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Addressing a large crowd, Mr. Muizzu spelled out the aspiration of the country of four lakh people, currently grappling with high external debt – it exceeded $8 billion 2024 – and its inevitable fiscal consequences. His administration is trying to tighten its fiscal policy, alongside a full-throttle push to tourism, the country's biggest foreign exchange earner that contributes 21% to the GDP.

The airport's new terminal will drive growth, particularly in tourism, as well as the broader economy, Mr. Muizzu noted optimistically as the Indian Ocean archipelago grapples with twin deficits and a daunting debt repayment schedule this year and the next.

The scenic country's policymakers have put all eggs in the tourism basket, and are fervently hoping that the new terminal will make a difference. Not just Maldivian policymakers, even international financial institutions see the new terminal as a likely game-changer. In its Maldives update in April 2025, the World Bank noted that the new terminal's completion would enable higher tourist arrivals, and lead to a projected economic growth of "5.2% on average over the medium term. "Thanks to the Maldives' strong tourism base, growth has held up well...the opening of airport terminal expansion would ease supply-side bottleneck for tourism and help sustain growth momentum," the IMF said at the end of its February 2025 mission.

Long-held dream

For Maldivians, the airport terminal symbolises a long-held dream that has finally come true, after a decade marked by key political shifts and considerable economic strain stemming from high foreign debt, including to China and India.

"For over 20 years now, there has been talk in the Maldives about not having the right gateway. As a sought-after destination drawing affluent tourists, it is important to make a good first impression, and we finally have that now," said Abdulla Ghiyas, chairperson of the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC), or 'Visit Maldives', as the state-owned tourism promotion authority brands itself.

According to officials of the Maldives Airport Company Ltd (MACL) and Tourism department, the facility has come up at a cost of $585 million, which the Muizzu administration raised through loans from the Saudi Fund for Development, the OPEC Fund for International Development, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, in addition to allocations in the national Budget. Detractors contend that the airport terminal has come up nearly a decade after it was envisaged, with three successive leaders attempting to take the project forward, while incurring higher costs.

The terminal came into focus initially in the context of former President Abdulla Yameen abruptly terminating Indian infrastructure conglomerate GMR's contract to run the main airport of Maldives. The idea of a new terminal also fit into President Yameen's plans to expand the country's main airport with a $800-million Chinese loan, an initiative he launched in 2016.

Despite sharp tensions among various political camps that make up the Maldives's ruling establishment, everyone agrees that the country desperately needed the new terminal, and see its recent launch is important for its economy.

However, while admitting that it is "crucial" for the Maldivian economy that the new airport terminal is fully operational soon, chairperson of the Opposition Maldivian Democratic Party Fayyaz Ismail described it a "debt-laden, cost-overrun project" with years of delay. "If the initial airport project awarded in 2010 had not been terminated on spurious grounds, it would have been opened in 2014, and our economy would have tripled by now without any debt to the nation. The debt related to the airport is nearly a third of our foreign debt," he told *The Hindu*, referring to the contract awarded to GMR in 2010, during former President Mohamed Nasheed's time in office.

The termination of the project, Mr. Ismail said, was the "most stupid thing" a government did in recent times, blaming the country's current debt burden squarely on the move. Mr. Yameen's 2012 decision reflected his hostility towards India, which would only grow in the following years, especially when he sought to challenge his successor Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's administration that pursued an "India first" foreign policy. As Mr. Yameen stepped up his "India Out" campaign, it eventually became a useful poll plank for President Muizzu, who rose to office in 2023.

Mr. Muizzu's first year in office saw a persisting strain in Maldives-India ties. But a year later, the relationship was reset, and evident in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the island nation last month. India's $400 million currency swap in 2024, and subsequent economic assistance was "pivotal" for the country's economic stability, Mr. Muizzu said during Mr. Modi's visit.

Tourism target

Meanwhile, Maldives tourism officials said they hope Indian tourists will return to the island in large numbers, putting behind past tensions that sparked a loud "Boycott Maldives" campaign in India. The call that went viral on Indian social media early in 2024 led to a sharp decline in numbers last year, but things are looking up now, according to Tourism sector representatives.

Authorities have set an ambitious $5 billion target for tourism revenue this year. A 9% uptick in arrivals has been recorded from January to June 2025, compared to the same period last year. The Maldives Monetary Authority, too, pointed "robust arrivals" from China, the country's top source market, and the other markets in Europe.

(The writer was in the Maldives at an invitation from Visit Maldives)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE , BHUBANESWAR.
Mail i.d. : seccbbsr@gmail.com

E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.09 of 2025-26

No.4707 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 4th August-2025

The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for one number road works to be received in online bidding, double cover system for Improvement works as detailed in : **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **5.00 P.M. of 14.08.2025 to 4.00 P.M of 29.08.2025**. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at **5.00 P.M. of 29.08.2025** in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/- Er.M.K.Mahananda
Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.

B-372 : OIPR-34156/11/0037/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE , BHUBANESWAR.
Mail i.d. : seccbbsr@gmail.com

E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.09 of 2025-26

No.4686 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 2nd August-2025

The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for three number road works to be received in online bidding, double cover system for Improvement works as detailed in: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **5.00 P.M. of 14.08.2025 to 4.00 P.M of 29.08.2025**. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at **5.00 P.M. of 29.08.2025** in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/- Er.M.K.Mahananda
Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.

B-371 : OIPR-34156/11/0038/2526

Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport
Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone-A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar
Phone: 0674-2300885, Email: - portsniwt.od@nic.in

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE - Bid Identification No. DPIWT-10/2025-26

1.	Name of work	:	Construction of Slope Jetty adjacent to the Existing Jetty at Chandbali in Bhadrak District.
2.	No. of work	:	1 (One) No
3.	No. of Covers	:	Double Cover
4.	Approximate Value of work	:	Rs.1.33 Crore
5.	Bid Cost	:	Rs.10,000.00
6.	Period of Completion	:	07 (Seven) Calendar Months
7.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal.	:	13.08.2025 to 09.09.2025 upto 05.00 P.M.
8.	Date & Time of Bid Clarification	:	13.08.2025 to 20.08.2025 upto 03.00 P.M.
9.	Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	09.09.2025 up to 05.00 P.M.
10.	Date of opening of bid document (Cover-I)	:	10.09.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
11.	Date of document verification	:	Within five (05) working days from the date of Technical Bid (Cover-I) opening
12.	Class of Contractor	:	"B" & "A" Class Contractor
13.	Name and address of Officer Inviting Tender (OIT)	:	Director, Ports & Inland Water Transport, Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone-A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Pin-751023 Phone-0674-2390355, Fax-2396885. e-Mail: - portsniwt.od@nic.in

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place, **https//tendersodisha.gov.in** .
The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

Director, Ports & IWT, Odisha

JJ-38: OIPR-38035/11/0039/2526

RACE AGAINST THE CLOCK

Woakes may opt for rehab over surgery to get fit in time for Ashes

REUTERS

Chris Woakes is racing against time to be fit for the Ashes later this year, saying rehabilitation "may be a risk worth taking" over surgery for his dislocated shoulder. He has undergone scans and is awaiting results but believes an eight-week rehab programme could have him ready for the first Test in Perth on November 21.

HAYDENSPEAK

'Gambhir could've used better language with the groundsman'

PTI

Matthew Hayden feels Gautam Gambhir could've toned down his language during an exchange with The Oval curator, but noted it was a case of an English groundsman asserting authority over the pitch. "But I think he's got every right to tone it down. He could have used better language," Hayden said on *All Over Bar The Cricket.*

SWEEPING SUCCESS

New Zealand thumps Zimbabwe by an innings and 359 runs

X@BLACKCAPS

New Zealand crushed host Zimbabwe by an innings and 359 runs on the third day of the second Test at the Queens Sports Club on Saturday to sweep the series 2-0. **The scores:** Zimbabwe 125 in 48.5 overs & 117 in 28.1 overs (Welch 47 n.o., Foulkes 5/37) lost to New Zealand 601/3 decl. in 130 overs. **PoM:** Conway; **PoS:** Henry.

STELLAR SHOW

All-round Pakistan defeats host West Indies in the first ODI

AFP

Debutant Hasan Nawaz's unbeaten 63 helped Pakistan beat West Indies by five wickets in the first ODI in Trinidad on Friday. **The scores:** West Indies 280 in 49 overs (Lewis 60, Hope 55, Chase 53, Shaheen 4/51, Naseem 3/55) lost to Pakistan 284/5 in 48.5 overs (Babar 47, Rizwan 53, Nawaz 63 n.o.); **Toss:** Pakistan; **PoM:** Nawaz.

Keymer maintains his perfect record; Vidit trumps Nihal

Arjun gets the better of Robson to stay half a point behind the German after three rounds; Awonder puts it past van Foreest; Pranav holds Anish; Abhimanyu and Pranesh share the leaderboard in the Challengers section

CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Great comeback: Vidit had the measure of Nihal after an exciting 61-move battle. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

German precision was at work on day three of the Quantbox Chennai Grandmasters chess tournament on Saturday as Vincent Keymer continued his winning run, outclassing India's Karthikeyan Murali to lead the standings.

The 20-year-old Keymer with three points is followed closely by top seed Arjun Erigaisi, who vanquished American GM Ray Robson in a 46-move game.

Only draw

World junior champion V. Pranav (Elo 2597) shared the point with seasoned Dutch GM Anish Giri (2748) in the only drawn game of the round.

Vidit Gujrathi trumped Nihal Sarin in an exciting all-Indian battle in 61 moves. Nihal, the younger of the two, slipped up after holding the advantage and allowed his opponent to post his maiden win here.

In the Keymer-Karthikeyan match, the German GM, playing with white pieces, gained ascendancy in a Sicilian Defence game by castling to the long side before launching an attack down the h-flank.

Keymer later said it was an intuitive move.

"It just came to my mind. I thought that maybe it's something I had seen, but it is a very dark memory, if there was any. The idea is that I generally would like to go Queen to g3 at some point."

Keymer runs into Anish Harshavardhan and Pa. Iniyan, respectively.

In another match, Leon Luke Mendonca overcame the challenge of R. Vaishali while D. Harika drew with B. Adhiban.

In the next round while Arjun gets to tackle Nihal.

Arjun wore down Robson after gaining an advantage on the clock and mounted pressure down the middle which left the American with no hope.

In the Challengers section, Abhimanyu Puranik and M. Pranesh were in the lead with wins over G.B.

The results (third round):
Masters: Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3) bt Karthikeyan Murali (1), Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5) drew with V. Pranav (1), Vidit Gujrathi (1.5) bt Nihal Sarin (0.5), Arjun Erigaisi (2.5) bt Ray Robson (USA, 1.5), Awonder Liang (USA, 1.5) bt Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 1).

Challengers:

Abhimanyu Puranik (2.5) bt G.B. Harshavardhan (0.5), R. Vaishali (1) lost to Leon Luke Mendonca (2), D. Harika (0.5) drew with B. Adhiban (1.5), M. Pranesh (2.5) bt Pa. Iniyan (1.5), Aryan Chopra (1) drew with Dipatyan Ghosh (2).

Fourth round pairings:
Masters: Karthikeyan vs. van Foreest, Robson vs. Liang, Nihal vs. Arjun, Pranav vs. Vidit, Keymer vs. Anish.

Challengers: Harshavardhan vs. Dipatyan, Iniyan vs. Aryan, Adhiban vs. Pranesh, Mendonca vs. Harika, Abhimanyu vs. Vaishali.

'Second' Abhimanyu dwells on Divya's World Cup win

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Support cast: Abhimanyu played down his role as Divya's aide. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Abhimanyu Puranik has been flying under the radar quite a bit since becoming a Grandmaster back in 2017.

The 25-year-old was Divya Deshmukh's 'second' during the latter's triumphant World Cup campaign, but sought to play down his role and said Divya came up with an incredible performance.

A 'second' is a trainer or analyst who helps a player prepare for a match by studying opponents, analysing games and openings.

Abhimanyu said he was pleasantly surprised when the 19-year-old Divya reached out to him.

A 'second' is a trainer or analyst who helps a player prepare for a match by studying opponents, analysing games and openings

Impromptu

"It was pretty impromptu [Divya reaching out to me]," Abhimanyu, who is currently playing in the Challengers section of the Chennai Grandmasters 2025 tournament, told *The Hindu*.

"It was a very nice experience working with her. I was happy to help her. She is someone who is showing a lot of maturity at a very young age.

"The World Cup performance was simply incredible. I hope she carries the momentum forward and plays well in future events, too.

"Divya is super pragmatic and has been preparing well for some time now, and it is slowly giving her the results. She is very adaptable as a player, which certainly helps," he said.

On his own career, Abhimanyu, runner-up in the World Junior Championship in 2018, said: "I might be slightly older, but I am feeling as motivated as ever.

"I am trying out a lot of new things. It is as exciting, and I just want to continue the process."

Main goal

Abhimanyu, going through a middling year so far, admitted that things could be better.

"My main goal is to be in the top 50 in the world, and I will keep working towards that end," he signed off.

Promise and learnings: Sai Sudharsan's maiden foray into Test cricket

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Standing tall: Sai Sudharsan was happy with the control he showed, but rued not converting his starts in England. GETTY IMAGES

B. Sai Sudharsan has been making rapid strides in the last four years. The 23-year-old set the stage on fire earlier this year in the IPL, finishing at the top of the run charts (759 runs).

The left-hander, who has already donned the India colours in ODIs and T20Is, added another feather to his cap in June when he made his Test debut against England in the recently concluded Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy that ended 2-2.

Though Sai Sudharsan played only three Tests and had middling returns (140 runs) with a highest score of 61, the Tamil Nadu batter showed promise in challenging conditions.

"To be honest, the feeling on Test debut was completely different [to the other formats]. Everyone used to say Test cricket is the ultimate, and I finally experienced it. The feeling when I was standing for the national anthem was special... especially playing in England," Sai Sudharsan told *The Hindu*.

On his performance, Sai Sudharsan rued not converting his starts but was happy about the control he showed in the middle.

"It was disappointing not to convert after getting those starts, and I should have made a big knock. I felt it was one of the most significant learnings. Having got through the difficult phase, in India, you could open up and be aggressive. But in England, you have to keep it tight and do what you did in the first hour. These are things I want to learn and structure my batting around," he explained.

"Even if we have a great season, we will have points to improve. But if it is just an OK series like this, there are a lot of areas to work on, whether it's the mindset or even from a run-making point of view."

Further elaborating on the technical learnings, he added: "There are a few things that I can improve on, like tracking the ball well, and even timing the ball better. Those things will help me to be in a better position when the ball is swinging or seaming."

> Everyone used to say Test cricket is the ultimate, and I finally experienced it. The feeling when I was standing for the national anthem was special

Going for the win

Sai Sudharsan emphasised that the new-look Indian team's mindset was to beat England.

"It was a great series for us. The captain (Shubman Gill) played some unbelievable knocks. Right from the first meeting, it was clear we were not coming in as a new team looking to gain experience, but to dominate."

On the team's morale heading into the final morning at The Oval when England needed 35 runs with four wickets in hand, Sai Sudharsan said: "We went in believing we could level the series. The fast bowlers bowled their heart out on the fourth evening, and it was their effort that kept us in the game. So once the rain came, they could come fresh on the final morning and win the game."

Samson. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Journey with Royals has been great: Samson

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Amidst strong speculation of him wanting to snap ties with Rajasthan Royals, wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson said his long association with the IPL franchise has transformed his life and career.

It has been widely speculated that Samson has asked Royals to relieve him ahead of this year's IPL auction, and if that indeed happens, it will mark the end of an association which started in 2013.

As per reports, former India spinner R. Ashwin has been in discussions with Chennai Super Kings for a possible move, and the franchise has been spoken about as a likely destination for Samson.

"The journey with RR has been really great, and I'm very grateful to have been in a franchise like that," Samson told Ashwin in his YouTube show.

Australia-A women get the better of India-A

Press Trust of India
MACKAY

Australia-A bowlers, led by pacer Kim Garth, ran roughshod as India-A suffered a demoralising 114-run defeat in the second unofficial T20I as the hosts took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

For the second consecutive match, India-A won the toss and chose to field, a decision that backfired big time with Australia-A batting stalwart and Alyssa Healy playing a superb 70-run knock to guide her side to 187 for four. India was all out for 73 in 15.1 overs.

The scores: Australia-A 187/4 in 20 overs (Healy 70, Tahlia 43; Radha 2/35) bt India-A 73 in 15.1 overs (Garth 4/7).

Saudi Arabia condemns India to third straight loss

FIBA ASIA CUP

Sports Bureau

No answers: The Indian cagers came a cropper against Saudi Arabia in the final round-robin fixture. FIBA

India bowed out of the FIBA Asia Cup men's basketball championship at Jeddah on Saturday, with a third straight defeat in Group-C, losing 59-84 to host Saudi Arabia.

China finished first in the group and directly entered the knockout (quarterfinals) while Saudi Arabia finished second and Jordan third.

India put up a really good fight in the first quarter (24-25) with Palpreet Singh Brar playing a major role in the defence and scoring two-pointers at regular intervals.

The host raced away in the second quarter and from there it never looked back as it took a 14-point lead (41-35). Poor turnovers didn't help India's cause as Saudi continued to pile on the pressure with consistent scoring, both two-pointers and three-pointers.

If at all India had to fight and reduce the lead, it had to be in the third, and here, too, the visitor fell short as the host's defence was top-class.

A three-pointer from Harsh Dagar did raise some hopes at 36-47 early in the quarter.

Much was expected from forward Pranav Prince and he disappointed. Saudi took a 19-point lead when Abdur-Rakhman scored a three-pointer. India just went through the motions in the fourth and final quarter.

The result: Saudi Arabia 84 (Marzouq Almuwallad 12, Abdur-Rahkman 14, Abdel Gabar 10, Md. Alsuwallem 15, Musab Tariq Kadi 10) bt India 59 (Palpreet Singh Brar 20).

INBRIEF

Paula Badosa pulls out of the U.S. Open with back injury

Former top-10 player Paula Badosa pulled out of the U.S. Open on Friday after dealing with a back injury that has sidelined her since a first-round loss at Wimbledon on June 30. The U.S. Tennis Association announced Badosa's withdrawal and said Jil Teichmann would replace her in the field. Alize Cornet, who retired from tennis last year but returned to action this year, is the next woman in line to get a berth in the draw at Flushing Meadows if someone else pulls out.

Barcelona reinstates ter Stegen as captain

Barcelona says Marc-Andre ter Stegen will return as first-team captain after announcing on Friday that the goalkeeper had authorised the club to send his medical report to the Spanish league. The announcement came as Ter Stegen talked of how "especially difficult" the past few months have been. The disagreement had led to the 33-year-old being stripped of the club's captaincy on Thursday. But that changed on Friday.

Hubli Tigers sets up final against Mysore Warriors

Hubli Tigers coasted to a 51-run win over Mangalore Dragons in the semifinal of the Maharani Trophy in Bengaluru on Saturday. In the other semifinal, Mysore Warriors took out Shivamogga Lioness by six wickets.

The scores: Semifinals: Shivamogga Lioness 107/9 in 20 overs (Soumya Verma 31) lost to Mysore Warriors 109/4 in 19.3 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 36).
Hubli Tigers 142/5 in 20 overs (B.G. Tejashwini 47 n.o.) bt Mangalore Dragons 91/9 in 20 overs (Priya Chavan 3/19).

Manchester United signs forward Benjamin Sesko

Manchester United signed Benjamin Sesko the third forward the 20-time English champion has acquired in the close season. His arrival from RB Leipzig on a five-year contract completes the Red Devils' attack. "Manchester United is pleased to confirm that Benjamin Sesko has joined the club, subject to registration," read a club statement.

Suraj Narredu wins Shergar Cup Stayers at Ascot

India's champion jockey Suraj Narredu etched his name in the history books by steering Fireblade, trained by Dylan Cunha, to a resounding victory in the Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup Stayers at the prestigious Ascot racecourse on Saturday. Representing the Asian Team as captain in the world's foremost international jockeys' competition, Narredu not only claimed individual glory but also helped his side to win the Shergar Cup with 68 points. His triumph is of immense pride to the Indian racing fraternity as it marks a rare and celebrated achievement for an Indian jockey on British turf. Adding flair to his historic moment, Narredu delighted the crowd by performing the trademark flying dismount – a celebratory gesture made famous by his idol, the legendary Frankie Dettori – in the winners' enclosure. – **Vinayak M. Zodge**

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs South Africa: 1st T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 2.45 p.m.

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.

West Indies vs Pakistan: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 7 p.m.

Tennis: Cincinnati Open, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m.

Chance for many aspirants to book their ticket to the Tokyo Worlds

For Annu it is a stepping stone to the coveted event; fellow javelin thrower Sachin, long jumpers Sreeshankar and Shaili and sprinter Animesh will also strive to breach the qualifying mark in the country's maiden World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze meet

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

In the absence of several top names, including double Olympic medallist and World champion Neeraj Chopra, due to varied reasons, the focus will be on javelin throwers Annu Rani and Sachin Yadav, long jumpers M. Sreeshankar and Shaili Singh and sprinter Animesh Kujur as the Kalinga Stadium is all set to host the country's maiden World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze event here on Sunday.

Coincidentally, a good bunch of prominent Indians have been ruled out due to injury or fitness issues.

In focus: The fans will look to Annu, Sachin, and Animesh to come up with a creditable display. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The event, offering a prize money of $25,000 and featuring 156 athletes, including 63 from more than 15 countries, will offer a chance to qualify for the World championships, starting in Japan from September 13.

The athletes can do so either through direct qualification or by improving their rankings.

For Asian Games gold medallist Annu, who returned from Poland on Friday after achieving her season-best mark of 62.59m, this is a stepping stone for the Worlds.

Try to improve

"The training was good because of which I got such a good distance in Poland after the Asian Games. I will try to improve," said 32-year-old Annu, who is ranked 30th among top-36 and is set for her fifth World championships.

Sachin, who got his season best of 85.16m while claiming the silver in the Asian championships in Korea in May, will be keen to breach the Worlds qualifying mark of 85.50m.

Do his best

"Despite my ankle issue, I did well (82.33m) in the Neeraj Chopra Classic. I had a good exposure in Europe. I will try to do my best," said Sachin, who may be challenged by Sri Lankans Rumesh Pathirage and Sumedha Ranashinghe and a host of talented Indians.

Fine performances

Animesh, who returned from Europe after giving some fine performances including National marks of 10.18 in 100m and 20.32 in 200m, said he would focus on 200m while trying to stay close to his personal best.

Sreeshankar, who has recorded some impressive marks including 8.05m since his comeback from a knee surgery, and Shaili, who has a season best of 6.64m, will also try to punch their tickets to Japan.

AIFF assures contract renewal for referees

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Grappling with unprecedented uncertainty over the fate of Indian Super League (ISL) season, the AIFF on Saturday moved in to "calm" fears among its referees, assuring their contracts will be renewed "as per established procedure."

The AIFF said it received a joint letter from nine referees on August 5, requesting extension of their professional match official contracts due on August 31. "The AIFF would like to assure that these contracts shall be renewed in accordance with the established procedures, subject to the existing process of the Elite Referees' Development Programme," the AIFF stated in a notice.

The AIFF has also proposed starting the Super Cup in the second or third week of September, ahead of a delayed ISL.

India's Budihal creates history, reaches Asian Surfing Championship final

Kavita Menon
CHENNAI

Ramesh Budihal rode the waves of history on Saturday, becoming the first Indian surfer to reach the final of the Asian Surfing Championship, taking place at the iconic Point Break in Mamallapuram.

Despite the challenging conditions, Budihal secured the second place in his semifinal heat with two crucial rides of 5.50 and 5.93 for a total of 11.43 points.

The Indian edged China's Shidong Wu (9.03) and compatriot Kishore Kumar (8.10) to enter the last four. Indonesia's Pajar Ariyana (13.83) claimed the top spot.

"I'm really grateful to be in the final. I wasn't expecting myself to get through," Budihal said. "My start wasn't good, and it was difficult to get the flow back. But I knew I needed to reset my mind in the last few minutes, pick the right wave, and go for it."

Making waves: Budihal scored 11.43 points to secure his spot in the title round. FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

Budihal's journey began in Kovalam, Kerala, where he joined the Sebastian Indian Social Project (SISP) and started surfing with the Kovalam Surf Club.

"I didn't get much support at first. My family was afraid of getting lost at sea and worried about my future. But when I started winning events, they began to support me."

Budihal has steadily built his game over the last few years. He has consistently ranked in the top three of the National Surf Series, and in 2024, he finished the season as India's No. 1 male surfer.

"Budihal has always had the potential. He was one of the early sparks we had," Arun Vasu, president of the Surfing Federation of India (SFI), told *The Hindu*.

Budihal now faces tough competition from Indonesian stars Mega Artana and Ariyana, and South Korea's Kanoa Heejae, all vying for the crown.

He has already contributed valuable points for India to secure additional quotas for the 2026 Asian Games.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Manish's undefeated 151 highlights Young Lions Club's big win

A. Manish Gowda made an unbeaten 151 as Young Lions Club thrashed Jawahar SC (2) by 163 runs in the KSCA (Group I) U-19 inter-club tournament.

The scores: South End SC 208/6 in 50 overs (Aereeona Alphen 33, Sankalp K. Teli 39, Jagath Babu 53 n.o., Avaneesh Poonacha 3/43) lost to Swastic Union (1) 209/7 in 43.5 overs (S. Gagan Rao 63, Nishanth Ravikiran 32 n.o., Sharvil Naik 3/49).

Century Cricketers 263/7 in 50 overs (Vrateen Prashant Padti 33, Aadesh Urs 119 n.o., B. Sai Akhilesh 42, Vijay Maller 3/58) bt Jayanagar United Cricketers 147 in 37.3 overs (G.K. Saivarun 56, S. Rishabh Kumar 34, Arjun Kumar 3/41, Ajay Kurpad 5/11) [by 94 runs by VJD after target was revised to 241 from 43 overs owing to rain].

Young Lions Club 304/6 in 50 overs (M. Rohith 43, A. Manish Gowda 151 n.o., Mohammad Rayan 38) bt Jawahar SC (2) 141 in 37.5 overs (A.M. Srihari 47, Mohith Vishwanath 30, Sunny Kanchi 3/13, Mohammad Rayan 3/27).

Friends Union Cricketers, KGF 231 in 46 overs (M. Raghav 41, Ayaan Sharmod Kumar 38, A.G. Gurucharan 50, Naveen Kumar Reddy 3/38, R. Rohit 3/49) lost to Engrades 234/6 in 44.1 overs (Michael 78, R. Rohit 31, R. Monik 36 n.o., A.G. Gurucharan 3/53).

Dooravani Cricketers (1) 309/7 in 50 overs (M.P. Shashank 26, Harshit Pai 65, R. Kaushik 38, Pradhan Tejomay 54, Balajee Deepak 39, Shaik Mohammed Sufiyan 3/55) bt Merchants (1) 72 in 18.5 overs (K. Sushanth 7/10).

Cambridge 200 in 48.5 overs (N. Nitin Reddy 54, S. Pratham Raj 3/34) lost to Palar SC, Kolar 201/8 in 39.3 overs (D. Chiranth 39, R. Rathin Sanjay 34, Arvind Prajwal 57 n.o.).

Social Cricketers 288/7 in 50 overs (H. Rithvik 33, Aaron K. Joseph 102, Rennell Pais 72) bt Vikram 113 in 35.3 overs (Kishore B. Khadka 31, Shreyas Girish 3/26, B.U. Ayush Ponnappa 3/17).

Your Unforgettable takes the honours in feature

HYDERABAD: Trainer S.S. Attaollahi's filly Your Unforgettable, ridden by P. Trevor, won the K. Mahipathi Rao Memorial Golconda Juvenile Million, the main event of Saturday's (Aug. 9) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla & Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. S.R. Sanas.

1. MICA EMPEROR PLATE (1,600M): KNIGHT REGENT (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Pride Aside (Gaurav) 2, Konaseema (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Moonlite Rose (Afroz K) 4. Not run: Yuvraj. 5-1/4, 2-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 41.01s. ₹10 (w), 10, 10 and 19 (p). SHP: 14, THP: 40, SHW: 10 and 12, FP: 14, Q: 13, Tanala: 74. Favourite: Knight Regent. Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

2. ADLER PLATE (1,600M): ARABESKA (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Federer (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Perfect Light (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Gold Giver (Shivansh) 4. 7-3/4, 2 and 1. 1m, 41.48s. ₹11 (w), 10, 17 and 13 (p). SHP: 50, THP: 33, SHW: 10 and 25, FP; 79, Q: 59, Tanala: 187. Favourite: Arabeska. Owners: M/s. Ram H. Shroff & Raj H. Shroff rep. Stride Livestock Pvt. Ltd., D.R. Thacker, S.R. Sanas & Chetan S. Shah. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

3. JANGAON PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): GACHCHHATU (Neeraj Rawal) 1, Torchbearer (Ashad Asbar) 2, Deccan Spirit (B. Nikhil) 3 and Glorious Power (Likith Appu) 4. 8-1/4, 1-1/4 and 2. 1m, 12.88s. ₹13 (w), 10, 11 and 60 (p). SHP: 27, THP: 108, SHW: 18 and 29, FP: 33, Q: 29, Tanala: 476. Favourite: Gachchhatu. Owners: M/s. Vara Prasad Reddy, N. Shyam Sunder & D.N. Kempegowda. Trainer: N. Rawal.

4. S. RANGARAJAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,400M): KINGS BEST (P. Sai Kumar) 1, N R I Ultrapower (Varun) 2, China Town (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Mix The Magic (Sonu K) 4. Not run: Miss Marvellous. 3-1/2, 2-1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 27.75s. ₹24 (w), 13, 11 and 12 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 37, SHW: 15 and 12, FP: 62, Q: 30, Tanala: 174. Favourite: N R I Ultrapower. Owners: M/s. Prakash Babu, Rahul Ashrit & Rohit Ashrit. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.

5. SHAMIRPET CUP (1,200M): PERCEPTION (G. Naresh) 1, Total Control (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Dream To Fly (Md. Ismail) 3 and Eminency (Nakhat) 4. 3, 2-1/4 and Neck. 1m, 15.01s. ₹16 (w), 12, 23 and 37 (p). SHP: 65, THP: 107, SHW: 10 and 28, FP: 116, Q: 109, Tanala: 1.557. Favourite: Perception. Owner: Mr. Rakesh Reddy Kondakalla. Trainer: Robin Reddy Kondakalla.

6. K. MAHIPATHI RAO MEMORIAL GOLCONDA JUVENILE MILLION (1,400M): YOUR UNFORGETTABLE (P. Trevor) 1, Cherie Chevalier (P. Sai K) 2, Miss Smiley Angel (Mukesh K) 3 and Ayushman (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. 2, 2-3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 28.50s. ₹18 (w), 10 and 10 (p). SHP: 21, THP: 20, SHW: 11 and 10, FP: 30, Q: 14. Favourite: Cherie Chevalier. Owners: Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla & Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. S.R. Sanas. Trainer: S.S. Attaollahi.

7. JANGAON PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): DIABLO (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Kalki (Abhay Singh) 2, High Heels (Gaurav) 3 and Normui (B. Nikhil) 4. 2, 2-1/2 and 6-1/2. 1m, 14.24s. ₹16 (w), 10, 13 and 15 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 36, SHW: 13 and 36, FP: 69, Q: 66, Tanala: 306. Favourite: Diablo. Owners: M/s. Ashok Ranpise, Seshadri Reddy Pochana, Teegala Sumant Reddy, Teegala Vijender Reddy, Satish Kumar Reddy Poondla, Giri Prathamesh Mahadev, Bollineni Krishnaiah & Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹998 (323 tkts.) & 30%: 186 (742 tkts.); Mini Jackpot: (i) 125 (352 tkts.), (ii) 671 (97 tkts.); Treble : (i) 92 (321 tkts.), (ii) 109 (398 tkts.).

Bagan enters quarterfinals; Bodoland FC ousts Punjab FC

DURAND CUP

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

ISL champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant overwhelmed city rival Diamond Harbour FC 5-1 in its final Group-B league outing of the 134th Durand Cup, at the Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday, to secure a place on top of the standings with an all win record.

Anirudh Thapa began scoring in the 19th minute before Jamie Maclaren (35), Liston Colaco (51-penalty), Sahal Abdul Samad (64) and substitute Jason Cummings (80) scored once each to complete the impressive scoreline for Mohun Bagan, which progressed to quarterfinals with full nine points.

Luka Majcen produced the only reply for the I-League promotee Diamond Harbour FC.

With two slots reserved for the best second-place finishers DHFC will have to wait for the completion of the engagements of six group leagues to find a place in quarterfinals.

In the lead: Bagan's impressive scoreline put the side on top of the standings. DEBASISH BHADURI

Bodoland FC surprised Punjab FC 1-0 to pick up its second successive win in a Group-D league match at the SAI Stadium in Kokrajhar. Colombian striker Robinson Rendon found the only goal of the match to help Bodoland FC reach top of the group standings with six points. With this loss Punjab FC, who collected four points, was eliminated from the tournament.

The results:

Group-B (Kolkata): Mohun Bagan SG 5 (Thapa 19, Maclaren 35, Colaco 51-pen, Samad 64, Cummings 80) bt Diamond Harbour FC 1 (Majcen 24).

Group-D (Kokrajhar): Bodoland FC 1 (Robinson 69) bt Punjab FC 0.

Karun to lead Mysore Warriors

Sports Bureau

Karun Nair has been appointed as the captain of defending champion Mysore Warriors for the upcoming Maharaja Trophy.

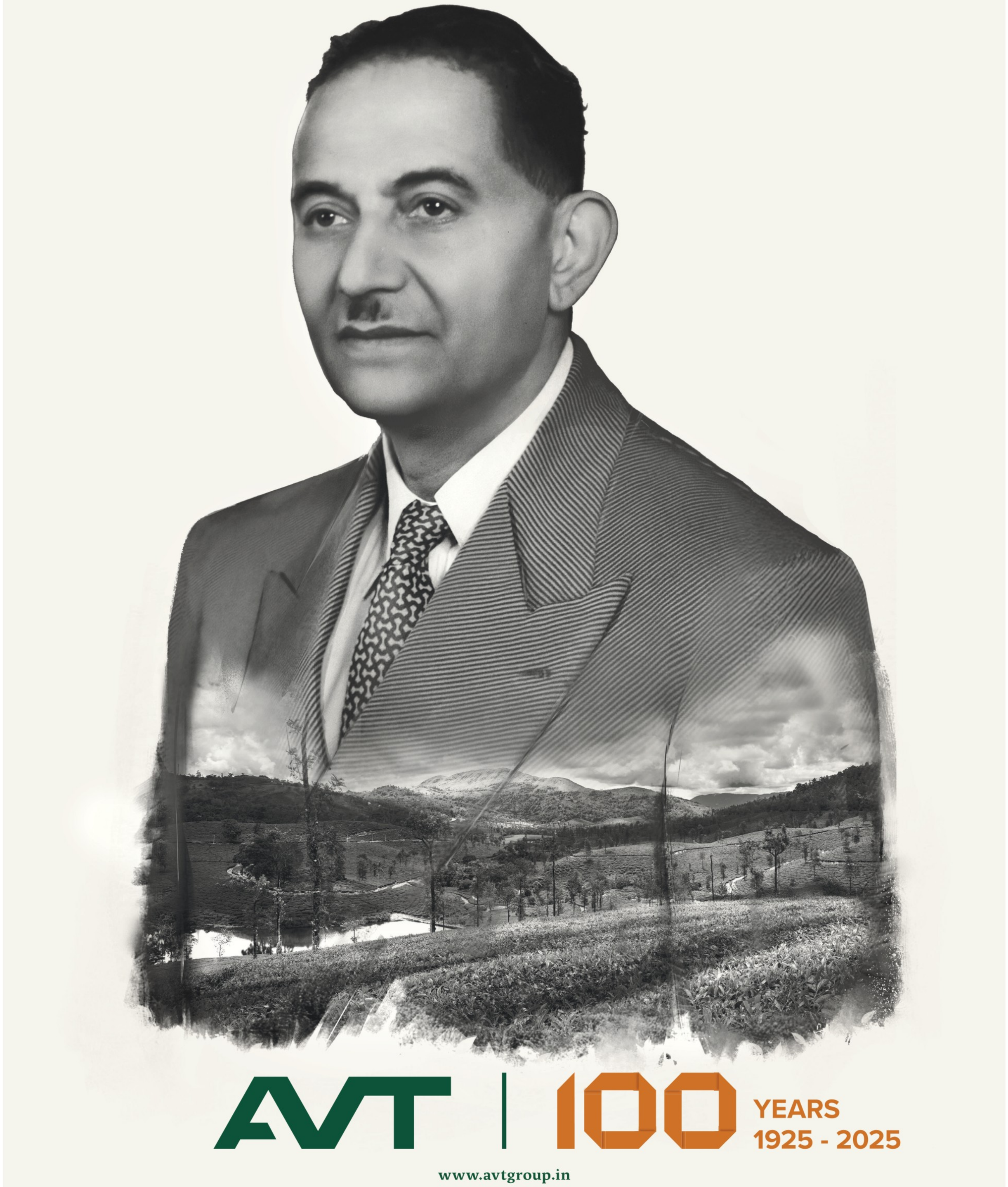
Manish Pandey will serve as the substitute captain in Karun's absence for few matches due to injury.

"It's an honour to lead the Mysore Warriors once again. We have a great mix of youth and experience in the squad," said Karun.

We honour our visionary Founder

Alfred V. Thomas

As we celebrate a Century of Excellence



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